



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXVIII, No 3

January and February 2018

Worship in January and February Worship at 10 am in the Dining Room

Sunday, January 7, 2018 **Saying No, and Saying Yes.**

The Rev Mary Margaret Earl
Of the UU Urban Ministry will preach
We as UUs have been called to stand against the forces that push our country backwards. How do we also answer a call to push forward? We will share our offering with the UU Urban Ministry.

Sunday, January 14, 2018 **The Gifts and Pitfalls of Memory**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
How does our Memory help to bring cohesiveness to our lives? And how might letting go and forgetting allow for a more innovative future?

Sunday, January 21, 2018 **Liberating God**

Donna Dolham will preach
Are we willing to consider alternatives beyond our and societies' current conceptions of God? How and in what ways are we confined and confining others as we design and define spaces and people? Come join us for this service as we explore some of the personal, societal, and spiritual ways we can liberate ourselves, others and God. Women's Alliance program following worship.

Sunday, January 28, 2018 **The Complexity of Sustainability**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
Theories on climate change have offered surprising and innovative solutions to our Global Warming problems. This raises the question: What if we approached all of our complex problems with equally innovative means?

Sunday, February 4, 2018 **"Are Pigs Flying a Miracle?"**

~ Anna age 7

Donna Dolham will preach
Conversations with children offer their own unique opportunities for engaging our faith with the world. This question was posed to me several years ago by my niece Anna. This service will consider ways to recognize the wonder of the vast world and universe through the eyes of all ages. Please join us for this intergenerational service.

Sunday, February 11, 2018 **Defrosting Your Faith**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
How do we warm up our spirits in the coldest times? We will come together to defrost our faith on this midwinter Sunday.

Sunday, February 18, 2018 **"On Holy Ground"**

Lessons from the Jordan...

The personal is political and the political is personal. You can travel the world by plane or internet and see the complex intersection of our lives with others across the globe. In what ways will we commit our next best action toward expanding our understanding and impact toward a more just and peace-filled world?

Sunday, February 25, 2018 **The Nearly Lost Art of Neighboring**

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
What has been lost in this technological age and how might we get it back?

In order to reduce our carbon footprint we worship in the dining room of the Parish Hall in January and February.

From Our Minister

As I write this, it is nearly 2018. In the nearly lost art of Numerology 2018 boils down to an 11 (my lucky number) and is considered a master number and is not meant to be reduced further to 2. Numerologists consider Eleven the most intuitive of all numbers and is a harbinger of dynamic and charismatic and instinctual change. I hope this bodes well for a year that has followed so much disharmony and reactionary change. To spur this on and tap into these positive attributes of this number we will be spending some time in worship in January and February exploring ways to live more into the possibilities of this year.

The complex thing about living into possibilities, as well as the flip side of the number 11, is the potential uncertainty and anxiety that relying on not knowing can manifest. I hope that by walking together through these first few months of the church year we may together build the resilience necessary to weather these times of transformation.

As an extremely rational and realistic Unitarian Universalist, I recognize that all this may sound like mumbo jumbo to you, and I must admit it does to me sometimes too. However, in these bleak, uncertain times, it is important to find lifelines and build resilience and resistance. I hope this is what church is for you.

As we move into the dining room let us find the love and connection that will rebuild the lost places in our lives and help us to walk together, whatever the future may bring. Happy 11, Love, Rali

P.S. To help my own New Year's Resolution I will be starting each week by meditating in my office from 7:30- 8 am on Monday Mornings. Feel free to join me if you wish.

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

Office Hours: Tuesday-Friday 10-2 and by appointment
617-459-5979 raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

On January 7th The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, the Director of the UU Urban Ministry, will preach, and we will share our offering with the UU Urban Ministry.

The Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry brings people together across race, faith, class, and neighborhood to build stronger communities in which all individuals have the power and resources they need to live into their potential. Renewal House, our temporary emergency shelter, gives individuals and families fleeing from abuse a safe place to land and begin to heal through counseling, advocacy, and support services. Believe In Success, our bilingual job and education-readiness program, empowers survivors of domestic violence--especially low-income women and LGBTQ people--to take their next step in life, whether that is entering the workforce, or enrolling in a skills-based training program or two- or four-year college. Through Roxbury Youth Programs, youth in our neighborhood gain access to academic enrichment support and an understanding of their history and community, all in an environment that fosters socio-emotional learning and development. Our ministry-at-large events bring people together across differences to build compassionate relationships and just communities. We are proud to do this work in

partnership with our 50 member Unitarian Universalist congregations, Roxbury neighbors, and supporters throughout the Greater Boston area

From Grace Peña- Acting Director of Religious Education

November and December were very busy months with non-curriculum activities in R.E. As a matter of fact, Sunday 11/5 was the only Sunday in both months which had regular classes held (besides O.W.L. 7-9 which workshops throughout those months). This also meant that the past two months were spent as a larger, mixed-grade group. The *Spirit Play* kids and the *Grades 1-7* kids got to know each other a lot better, and sometimes the *O.W.L. 7-9* kids joined in!

On 11/5 *Spirit Play* heard the story of *A House for God* – a story about discovering the mystery of what some call “God” in nature and how people found homes for that mystery in Stonehenge, Mayan Temples, Muslim Mosques, etc. *Grades 1-7* also focused on mystery and how that guides us as Unitarian Universalists. The kids did a fun activity on the mystery of how to blow a bubble inside another bubble. They gave it their all and had great success....plus a lot of fun!

On 11/12, inspired by a letter I received from Boston Medical Center and the celebration of Veterans’ Day, we made fleece tie blankets for BMC to give to their patients. The children really love their Cool Deed activities. They all come together to not only complete the activity, but to help each other out. They loved making these blankets so much that we continued this activity on Sunday 11/19 during our shared R.E. time with Allin Church. The kids made 12 blankets all together!

On 11/26 all of the children worked on our annual Holly Faire crafts. This year we created snowman votive lights ornaments and mason jars decorated as reindeer and filled with single serving hot cocoa treats containing marshmallows and Hershey’s kisses. I want to thank Dale Meyer-Curley for all of her help – from concept and preparation to execution – on this activity!

12/3 and 12/10 were devoted to our Christmas Pageant: *The Spirit of the Christmas Tree*. On 12/3 the children rehearsed songs with Natalie Jensen. On 12/10 the pageant was performed to great accomplishment. I had so much wonderful help with this. Thank you to Natalie, Linnea Bardarson, Karen Donaghey, Dale Meyer-Curley, Liza Arend and, of course, Rali and Donna for being the narrator and the Children’s Story teller.

On 12/17 the children decorated plastic votive candles, and they were able to shop at our annual Children’s Holiday Shop. The votive candles are for all the children to hold at the 12/24 service. The Holiday Shop was done a little differently this year. Judy Barrington started this idea a number of years ago. It used to be an evening that parents could drop their kids off to have some time to themselves to shop while the children were shopping for them here at First Church. As it became harder to find an evening that worked during this time of year and enough people to help keep the kids active and entertained, we decided to bring it to R.E. this year, and it was a success!

The *O.W.L. 7-9* children continued to finish the rest of their workshops with Josh Langmead and Lisa Pilat. This class will end in the middle of January 2018, and these children will move on to *Coming of Age* for the remainder of the church year culminating in May with their *Coming of Age* service.

Lots of great things are happening in R.E. Look for a *Grades 1-7* helper sign-up sheet coming in January. I need parents to assist with activities during R.E. It’s so much fun to work and be with the kids. Please consider signing up!

January will also see *Neighboring Faiths* start with Allison Staton and Cindy Jones teaching and *O.W.L. K-1* with Tom Donaghey and Kerrie Gallagher facilitating.

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

From Donna Dolham our Ministerial Intern

The quiet of the darkness invites moments of reflection, waiting and anticipation as the light continues to return. As we wait together, let's make room for continuing to reach out into the world engaging our faith in just relationships. As January unfolds, I look forward to traveling as part of my own spiritual and ministerial development to parts of Israel as I study religious education across religions. I hope that during some of your time this winter, you find moments of spiritual engagement and relationship building and quiet reflection. –Donna

On January 21st, following the service, please join us for an opportunity to engage living into our Welcome as we hear and explore more about the vast tapestry of gender identity. P-Flag (Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays, and Transgender folks too) will be joining us for this discussion. This program is brought to you by the First Church and Parish Women's Alliance.

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

Adult Religious Education

Women in the Hebrew Bible and the Qur'an: This comparative scripture course will offer opportunities for you to engage several stories at the intersection of your life. We will consider what these stories have to teach us and the different perspectives offered by these two ancient texts. Please consider joining us for this 4-session class beginning on Monday, January 22nd from 6:30pm to 8pm. Donna Dolham will be facilitating this class.

January 22nd: Session One: Eve, the "apple" and Us

January 29th: Session Two: Sarah and Hagar: How does this story go?

February 12th: Session Three: The Queen of Sheba, where does mystery take her?

February 19th: Session Four: Subversive Women in the story of Moses

Email or call Donna Dolham for more details 207 701-1581 ddolham@tds.net.

Watch for the repurposed crafting and pot luck in February. 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 Jan. 23 during which we will be discussing Deer Hunting with Jesus, by Joe Bageant. The next meetings will be: on Feb. 27 Strangers in Their Own Land, by Arlie Russell Hochschild; on Mar. 27 The Righteous Mind, by Jonathan Haidt; and on April 24 White Trash, by Nancy Isenberg. We will not have a December meeting. All are invited to participate. Email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org for more details or to get on the email list for this group.

Email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Monday Morning Mediations

Start the work week with friends. Join the minister in her office at 7:30- 8am on Mondays from January 8 until March 22nd for stillness and breathing. No need to sign up, just show up.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) For Adults will be starting in the new year.

Tom Donaghey and Rev. Rali Weaver are still trying to gather a core group of 6-8 adults to try the Adult OWL Class. We need 3 or 4 more people.

Sexuality education is a gift we have given our junior high school age children for decades. We now give it to younger children as well. Their parents get the benefit of their children's homework, which encourages them to talk with their children about their sexual values. This may seem incidental, but it is a core part of the curricula.

We know that our sexual values are often simultaneously at odds with often violent and exploitative media messages on the one hand, and fear and hostility from dogmatic moralizers on the other. *Our Whole Lives* gives us tools to counter messages of violence.

The Our Whole Lives Adult curriculum seeks to equip our adult congregants with strength, insight and encouragement to lead sexually healthy and responsible lives. If this sounds at all interesting to you, please sign up on the Bulletin Board outside the dining room or contact Tom Donaghey or Rev. Weaver for details

Care and Concerns

Pat Hawkins will be returning to work after the start of the new year. Feel free to stop in to say hi during office hours. .

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 Hurricane 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:

- **January 7th UU Urban Ministry**-Roxbury based UU Social Justice Institution.
- **February 18th First Church Benevolent Fund**- fund for supporting members and friends of First Church.
- **March 18th Partners in Health**- Strengthening Health Care Globally
- **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.

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Community Celebration

“Without love, there is no reason to know anyone, for love will in the end connect us to our neighbors, our children and our hearts.”

Join us in a community celebration of Dr. King, Jr. and his life.



Date: Monday, January 15, 2018

Time: 5:30-7:30 PM

- 5:30-6:30 PM Community Dinner
- 6:30-7:30 PM Celebration

Location: Dedham Middle School Cafeteria

Questions: Email madamsmelrose@gmail.com

- Bring an item to donate for the Dedham Food Pantry.
- All artists welcome to bring a piece of art to share with the community that honors MLK.

**Sponsored by: Dedham Public Schools Equity
and Inclusion Task Force**

This is a family friendly event

All are welcome!
Contact Rev. Weaver with questions.

November & December Parish Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting - November 6, 2017

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

Meeting called to order 7 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of October 2, 2017 meeting

Motion to approve--so voted.

Minister's Report

Pat fell while at work and fractured her collar bone and pinky. She will be out of work until she recovers.

Richard Hellegers working on a finished LRP for 2018-2023.

Steve Brayton has agreed to chair Stewardship Committee for one more year.

Treasurer's Report – Cindy Jones

Pledge totals came in at 99.97 of budget amount

\$15,000 under budget

Motion to accept Treasurer's Report--so voted

Review Action Items

Andrea- Create closets in auditorium where stacking chairs could be kept

Geoff is working on Nominating Committee

Rali is working on names of people to replace Steve Brayton as Stewardship leader

Fall meeting- warrants signed, auditor and moderator in place

Old Business

Retreat November 11, 9:30-2

Rali, Donna and Susan working on it.

New Business

Holly Faire signup.

Motion made to compensate Pat until Workers Comp kicks in. So voted

Andrea--steeple clock will be reinstated November 13 – windows go in at top of steeple

Some of the finials blew off steeple in winds- will take them all off.

Endowment has grown significantly - a motion to support discussion to remove \$300,000 from the endowment at the Special Fall Meeting for making capital expenditures. So voted.

Tradition for December meeting

Pot Luck, Yankee Swap \$5 gift from Holly Faire

Next meeting December 4, 2017

Meeting adjourned 8:30 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
Will be returning to the office this month.
Stop in for a visit Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

Rev. Rali M. Weaver
Tuesday through Friday 10-2 and by appointment

Donna Dolham
Ministerial Intern
Monday 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

Alcathon's 24 hours for Christmas Eve and Christmas Day
And New Year's Eve and New Year's Day.

