



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXVIII, No 5

May and June 2018

Worship in May and June Worship at 10:00 am in the Meetinghouse

Sunday, May 6, 2018

The Beauty of Creative Tension

Donna Dolham will preach

Join us for this service as we explore the opportunities found when we bring all of our voices into community together! We will explore lessons from interfaith dialogue that can help inform how we choose to be together.

This Sunday our Inter-generational Choir will sing. Please join us in the Meetinghouse at 9:30 am for rehearsal.

Sunday, May 13, 2018

Following Your Call

Donna Dolham will preach

As you live into your lives where are you called? What inspires you to follow that call and ground your life in deep listening moments?

This will be Donna's last solo preaching as she winds down her internship here at First Church & Parish in Dedham.

Sunday, May 20, 2018

Coming of Age Service

First Church & Parish in Dedham
Coming of Age Class

Please join us as the youth of our congregation lead this service. This is a time when they have been developing their Credo of faith which will provide the anchor to this time together.

Sunday, May 27, 2018

Celebrating Service

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
Who would we be as a church without the great and stalwart champions of religious liberty? How would we ever have coffee hour without Judy Barrington? These questions and more will be answered when we gather for worship.

Sunday, June 3, 2018

Children's Sunday

First Church & Parish in Dedham

Children's Religious Education Program

Children are the hope for tomorrow in our world and in our congregation.

Please join us for this service developed by our religious education students.

We will have our annual kickball/wiffleball game with the Allin Congregational Church at 2:00 pm. Location TBD

Sunday, June 10, 2018

Flower Communion Sunday

The Rev. Rali Weaver and
Donna Dolham will preach

Originally created in 1923 by Unitarian Minister Norbert Capek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, the Flower Ceremony was introduced to the United States by Rev. Maya Capek, Norbert's widow.

In this ceremony, everyone in the congregation brings a flower to place in a shared vase on the altar. The congregation and minister bless all of the flowers and they are then redistributed so that each person brings home a different flower than the one they originally brought.

Please bring a flower to share
(and there will be plenty if you do not have one to bring).

Pot-Luck picnic to follow our last service of the church year!

From our Peripatetic Minister

As we wrap up the end of the Church Year I still see no end in my own family situation. There is no simple solution when the state has a story that doesn't match reality and every attempt I have made to move this along sooner, has fallen on deaf ears. It looks like my summer may be in Connecticut. Still as Donna and Linnea wrap up I want to promise you all that while I can't return right now I am not planning on leaving First Church any time soon.

We will have many goodbyes in the months of May and June. Graduates to bid adieu to, parish committee leaders who will step down and step up, Donna who has been with us for two years and Linnea for 11. It won't be easy to do justice to all of these transitions, and yet healthy hello's and goodbyes are important for closure and new beginnings, so we will try. I hope to be around all summer for all of this, and that my own situation will resolve itself near or before the Sunday after Labor Day when I hope to see you all back in church holding water from our summers apart.

I want to close by trying to express my deepest gratitude to all that Linnea and Donna have brought to our congregation in their different tenures. While their departures will be recognized on different Sundays in June, they will both be leaving us on the final Sunday of this Church year.

I wish to thank Linnea for the magically serendipitous way she has chosen music for my eclectic thematic preaching over the decade we have been together. I want to thank her for always considering every crazy idea I've had for a benediction response even when they have been floated her way at 3 am on Saturday. And most of all I want to thank Linnea for her collegiality, you have led our choir and congregation in the most spiritual aspect of worship, and even when the preaching has been bad, you have made me look good.

I wish to thank Donna for having my back. Your calm reassuring nature has made what could have been an impossible situation easier. You came to us a fully formed minister and allowed us to tumble you in our polisher for a while. Thank you for making us our back up. You have made us a teaching church.

Thank you, 1000 times thank you to you both. My hope is that we will all take the time to thank Linnea and Donna both publicly and privately in the coming weeks and months. I promise there will be lots of cake and other surprises but the hugs and appreciations of friends will be the most important way for us all to say fare-thee-well.

Feel free to contact me in May and June by phone and email if you have any ideas about celebrating these two individuals. I look forward to rejoining you in September.

Love, Rali

617-459-5979 raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

From Our Sabbatical Minister

Beginnings and Endings seem to intertwine into the unfolding of time. It really only seems like a blink since that September Sunday when you welcomed me into your community as intern minister. Since then I've learned just how much love lives within First Church and Parish. Again and again I've witnessed your engaged faith as you help to build a community that exists as a beacon of transformation and hope at a time in history when such a location is necessary to nurture our spirits forward.

I will be continuing sabbatical coverage until June 10th while Rali is away. She will be preaching some of the Sundays throughout the rest of the year so watch for your weekly e-news! Thank you all who have been so supportive during this time. Also, thanks to all who have supported my current process of ministerial search, which continues on... I will certainly let you know when the next exciting public news occurs. Following my internship with you, I will be stepping away from contact with the congregation for a year as is recommended by the UUA ministerial best practices. I've heard it referred to as a ministry of absence making room for the next intern minister. Please know that although we won't be in touch, you will be with me as my ministry unfolds.

Summer Services are in the works regarding scheduling. If you are interested in offering a service, please contact me at ddolham@tds.net. If you want to know more about it or have some support in developing an idea we can also meet for that.

SAVE the DATE: JUNE 16th @ 1:00 at First Universalist Church in Auburn, Maine
All are welcome to Donna's ordination!

Car Pooling: Some people would like to car pool together and/or would like to travel with someone who is driving. If you are willing to be a driver to Donna's ordination please notify her (with how many others will fit in the car) and she will start a sign up list of drivers so people can sign up for a ride. The driver and riders will then receive an email with directions and you can coordinate the departure time. Thanks to all who might be up for this adventure!

During this time until the end of the church year,
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 Linnea Bardarson – Music Director

As many of you already know, I am resigning as Music Director here at First Church. It is not an easy decision. This is a warm and loving congregation (I'm talking about YOU!) which has been nothing but *100% supportive* of my music ministry here. And THE CHOIR - could there be a more loyal, enthusiastic, kind and FUN bunch of people to work with? And how they can sing! But you all know that, of course. My reasons for moving on are mainly this - my kids are growing up and I'd like to spend more time with them on the weekends. And I've been your Music Director for 11 years. It's about that simple. Will I miss you all? YES! Will you see me around? YES! But not as often. My sons will continue participating in the wonderful RE program here at church.

This has been a wonderful year to go out on. I look back fondly on past Sundays, and these highlights; **Christmas Eve** (seeing your faces by candle-light as Steve Cecil and I played guitars on "Silent Night"), crafting an illuminating Civil War-themed Music **Sunday**, having the kids play the new hand-bell set on Easter **Sunday**, playing in the Band for "HONK", and seeing our "Inter-Generational" Choir get larger and larger. These and other memories make me very happy, and I will look forward to my continued friendships with all of you.

With love and fondness and with thanks for having me all these years,
Linnea

I'll leave you with the words of the Benediction Response that the choir often sings:

*Good friends from whom we now must part,
Where are we bound?
Your hands and voices fill my heart,
Here is my home.
Come darkness, come light,
Where are we bound?
Come morning, come night,
Here is my home.*

Linnea

From Grace Peña- Director of Religious Education

Lots of wonderful Sundays happened in our Children's Religious Education program in March and April We had four weeks of classes which were very well attended – including one week where we had 40 children in class! Thank you to all the teachers who contributed their time and love to our classes.

We also had lots of Special Activities in which we practiced kindness (making and giving tissue paper zinnias and writing letters to Rali's great-niece Eloise), some Cool Deeds both to benefit our growing charity bank (making and selling pies) and our earth (making bird feeders) and some special services (Music Sunday and our Easter Service including the important Easter Egg Hunt). All in all, March and April were a lot of fun in R.E.!

As we head toward the end of our church year, R. E. will consist of a special *Coming of Age* service (May 20), crafting and practicing for *Children's Sunday* (June 3rd), our last Cool Deed and a final Special Activity for Mother's Day. If you have not taught or led an activity in R.E. and would like to do so in May and June, please contact me.

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

Coffee Hour Pilot Project Update

A Pilot Project is underway to help create a network of people to provide all of the necessary pieces to this special and “sacred” time in the life of the congregation. The model is based off of one that several other UU congregations around our association have been using to lighten the load and create opportunities to meet and get to know others. The framework involves groups of 8 to 10 people with a team leader, these folks then break up the tasks involved in coffee hour: setting up tables and chairs, providing light food/snacks, cleaning up kitchen and moving the tables and chairs against the walls. There will be a more detailed list of tasks available to all the teams. Essentially, First Church is large enough to support 8 teams so every team only serves once every 8 weeks. Watch for more information as this develops. The Membership Committee hopes to have this up and running for next September.

Congregational Conversations ~ All Are Welcome

Please join in circle conversations this Sunday, May 6th and next Sunday, May 13th immediately following service in the Alliance Room. Your Parish Committee leadership will be present as well as Donna Dolham to facilitate this time where you can share your thoughts and questions about the changes that have been happening over the last few months: Rali’s sabbatical, Linnea’s resignation and the church year’s continuing movement toward summer. We hope you’ll take this opportunity to join in conversation.

If you have any questions about this, please contact Susan Sennott, Noreen King (Parish Committee Co-chairs) or Donna Dolham (sabbatical minister).

Save the Date

Saturday May 5th, 10:00 am we will celebrate the life of Michael Hubner

Friday May 11th, 11:00 am we will celebrate the life of Enid Gifford

Services and Receptions at First Church & Parish in Dedham

First Church & Parish in Dedham will be staffing the Dedham Food Pantry on Saturday May 5th.

We need a minimum of 4 people to take the clients shopping from 8:15 am-11:00 am.

Please contact the church office at 781-326-7463 or firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

if you are available to help.

First Church Yard Sale & Perennial Plant Sale

Saturday June 2nd, 9 am-1 pm

Fee per table will be the greater of \$10.00 (payable before 6/2 or 10% of sales

(balance over \$10 payable after 6/2 on an honor system)

We need volunteers who can propagate perennials from your garden to donate to our sale on

June 2nd (drop off will be on Friday, 6/1 or by 8 am on Saturday 6/2)

Our **Annual Meeting** will be held on Sunday June 3rd

following service.

Child care will be provided.

Adult Religious Education Opportunity

Please contact Donna Dolham at ddolham@tds.net, or 207 701-1581, if you are interested in participating in a 4 week class worship based off of the book, *The Shared Pulpit*.

Care and Concerns

We continue to have parishioners who are not feeling well and/or cannot make it to church and would love to receive a call, a card or a visit.

If you are interested in contacting any of these people please contact the church office at firstchurch@dedhamuu.org.

If you have a care or concern to share, please contact our church office by calling 781-326-7463 or emailing firstchurch@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:

- **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.

March and April Parish Committee Meetings Minutes
Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting – February 11, 2018

Present: Susan Sennott, Noreen King, Cindy Jones, Matt Grady, David Miller, Susan White, Rali Weaver and Donna Dolham

Meeting called to order 12:30 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of January 8, 2018 meeting - date should read January 8 instead of January 9-motion to approve with correction-seconded and VOTED

Minister's Report - Rali will be going to Connecticut to help her niece. She met with Ministry Committee – talked about award for someone who has helped with membership. Will ask Meg Duncan to be on Publicity Committee- Mason Miranda will join the Ministry Committee

DRE Report

Treasurer's Report - Bay State Learning has paid rent through January \$2000 non pledge gift received Electricity and gas bills high due to cold weather Building insurance and Workman's Comp insurance paid \$383.00 over budget

Motion to approve, seconded and VOTED

Review Action Items

- Cindy presented draft budget
- \$250 Adult RE, \$100 pageant costumes, raised salaries and pledges 3%, reduced Parish Players contribution \$500
- Need a line item for paying an interim feeding account to support minister
- Increase stewardship amount by \$2000 more than draft budget. \$104,000 new amount of budget. 5%increase. Motion to accept \$104,000 as amount given to Stewardship Committee-seconded and VOTED
- Credit/debit cards for treasurer-Cindy learned that the Dedham Institution for Savings does have a business credit card but it requires a Social Security number. One problem is getting receipts for expenses paid on credit cards which is essential for the IRS. Discussion TABLED until next meeting
- Signage-finding money – proceeding with this

Old Business

- New chairs are here, old ones removed
- Dave Atkins will chair Stewardship with Steve Brayton
- Safe Church Policy- Donna attended a meeting given by the state-ongoing

New Business

- Executive Session procedure should be confidential. If it is about minister tell minister before it happens. Parish Committee chair or designated person should notify minister within 24 hours
- Discussed the resolution of disruption at the service caused by a young man with autism. Rali will follow up with his mother.

Meeting Adjourned 1:50 pm

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting – March 5, 2018

Minutes of February 11 meeting approved.

Ministers Report- Donna Dolham

Donna's contract is up at the end of the month-can be renewed. Rali will know more about her plans after March 23 court date-we need to start planning for Rali not being available. Donna went over dates she would not be available.

Treasurers Report

- BSL -no payment Feb. or March
- Andrea and Geoff will have a chat with George
- UUA contribution paid
- Andrea deposited \$16,000 from First Church
- We need to meet fundraising goal of \$7000
- Accepted

DRE Report

Action Items

- Crash bar for meeting house door
- Andrea said we should make one window a door -will get a recommendation from Building and Grounds -this is a safety issue
- Julia Gecha has prepared a proposal for signage and will present it to PC

Old Business

- More discussion about debit/credit cards for deacons and the fact that Social
- Security numbers are needed.
- Date needed for follow up discussion re Parish Committee retreat

New Business

- Kick off Stewardship
- \$104,000 pledge number
- Added line for substitutes \$2000 budgeted for future needs
- Nominating Committee - Geoff will set up a meeting date-Jen Atkins will join the committee
- Need a deacon, 2 PC members, clerk, treasurer and auditors
- Annual Meeting- Cindy will check the calendar and come up with a date in May
- Andrea brought up a discussion about issues that have occurred during the
- Candlelight Service -she handed out a sheet entitled Candlelight Service Requirements. We need to give congregation advance notice if we are making changes in the Candlelight Service. PC should appoint a small committee to research what we should do. Ask at the next meeting people who were not here.
- Look over Rali's Letter of Agreement for discussion at next meeting

Adjourned 8:25

**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