



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXVIII, No 2

November & December 2017

Worship in November and December Worship at 10 am in the Meeting House

Sunday, November 5, 2017 **Risks and Benefits of Liberation**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
On this Day in 1984 the Sandinistas claimed election victory in Nicaragua despite US intervention. We will look back at this auspicious day and consider what might be the problem with liberty and justice then and now.

Sunday, November 12, 2017 **In Praise of our Veterans**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
This Sunday we will honor our Veterans and give thanks for their role in keeping the peace.

Sunday, November 19, 2017 **Walking Together**

The Rev. Rali Weaver and the Rev. Cheryl Kerr will preach
We will celebrate the anniversary of our collective founding by inviting the Allin Congregation to join us for worship. In light of the 200th anniversary of the call of Alvan Lamson we will consider the value of walking together despite all of our differences.

Sunday, November 26, 2017 **Preparing our Hearts**

Donna Dolham will preach
As we move toward holiday seasons with the ever increasing pace of life, this service will offer an opportunity to slow the pace while spiritually centering ourselves. We will explore letting go of the unnecessary and touching the edges of forgiveness.

Sunday, December 3, 2017 **Find a Stillness**

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
At such a busy time of year how can we cultivate stillness? And beyond stillness might we also cultivate sustainability?

Sunday, December 10, 2017 **Spirit of the Christmas Tree** **Our Christmas Pageant**

Our Children will lead us in worship.
Join us this Sunday to celebrate the season with our children.

Sunday, December 24, 2017 *No Morning Worship*

Christmas Eve Service **6pm Caroling on the Green** **6:30 Candle Light Lessons and Carols Service**

Reception on the green to follow
Join us to celebrate the season with our traditional lessons and carols service.
All donations of desserts will be welcome at the reception, hot chocolate and hot cider will be available.

Sunday, December 31, 2017 **Let's Start the New Year Right**

Rev. Rali Weaver will preach
This will be our last service of the year in the Meeting House before we move to the dining room to save on heat. Let us ring out the old year together and start the New Year right!

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

From Our Minister

Jenny and I went with some friends to see the film “Battle of the Sexes,” and I was surprised at how much of those memories of the infamous Bobby Riggs and Billy Jean King tennis match was rooted in my memory. I was only about seven when the two fought it out on national television, but the sexist banter and feminist triumph were imbedded in my consciousness. Seeing the epic battle between the two sides played out on the big screen made me aware of how different my life has been from Billy Jean King’s and how few obstacles I have faced in my career. With that said, some of the recent news about sexual transgressions and aggressions has also called to mind the evolution of our society and how times have changed and are changing for women and men.

This is why, I believe Our Whole Lives for Adults might be useful in our time. As many of you know, Tom Donaghey and I have been trying to get an Adult Our Whole Lives class off the ground here at First Church. So far only three participants have volunteered, which could mean that sexuality is something we are all too embarrassed to talk about. The OWL curriculum reminds us though that “human sexuality is far too important, too beautiful and too dangerous to be ignored in religious community.”

The OWL curriculum was written to support our UU principals for example:

- **The inherent worth and dignity of every person.** We want to help people respect the worth and dignity of their own selves, including their bodies. We want them to respect others who may be different from them.
- **Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.** We hope to address the elements of loving, equitable, and healthy relationships and counter injustices such as homophobia, stereotyping, and sexism.
- **Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations.** We intend to offer a setting in which every person may be accepted for who they are and how they are changing. They provide a framework to understand sexuality as a part of spiritual growth and offer a caring religious community that nurtures the spirit through ritual, discussion, and respectful relationship.
- **A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.** We intend to engage participants in values clarification and critical thinking. The program builds a trusting, inquiring community in which a diversity of voices are heard.
- **The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.** The *Our Whole Lives* curricula encourage participants to value themselves, seek healthy relationships with others, and act on their values throughout their lives.

In the times we live in I feel these purposes and principles are even more valuable to help guide our interactions. While OWL may not be ‘needed’ for many of you because you are already sexually educated, I believe what OWL Adult can offer is a time to explore our values in relation to our whole lives. I hope you will consider joining Tom and me in this endeavor. If you are interested in joining us, or at least willing to help us test this curriculum please sign up by contacting me or Tom or on the sign-up sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the dining room.

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver
 Office Hours: Tuesday- Friday 9-2
 and by appointment
 617-459-5979 raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

From Grace Peña- Acting Director of Religious Education

Our Children's Religious Education classes were off and running in September and October. Desi Langmead is back in the Nursery as our main provider in that classroom. I have had some great helpers in that class so that there are always two providers there. There has been a mix of high school students (Avery Miranda, Zoe Carlson-Pietrazsek), parents from the congregation and former students (Jennifer Tegnell). It has been so wonderful for the little ones to have their constant presence (Desi) and get to know some new people.

Spirit Play continues to run smoothly with parents of our new *Spirit Play* students signing up to learn this curriculum. It is always so wonderful to have new teachers become a part of R.E. The children love their updated space and I have added some toys and art supplies to the room. The kids in this class now have more choice for the free time activities they have after their lesson is over.

The *Grades 1-7* class has undergone a few changes in their routine. We are now gathering in the first classroom in the old R.E. space after the Children's Message in the Meetinghouse. The children from this class are still getting their Healthy Snack, but they then settle into the first classroom instead of the auditorium for their credo, chalice lighting and to hear about the day's activities. There is usually a physically active activity such as charades (held in the auditorium) and a more art-centered activity in the second classroom in the old RE space. The activities are still connected to the theme of Rali's or Donna's service that day. The change in routine is to help us settle more easily into our transfer from the Meetinghouse and the bigger service into our R.E. space and our activities.

I have started a sign up for the healthy snack for the *Grades 1-7* class, and it has been very well received. So many parents of children in this program have signed on to provide a snack for this class. I am so happy to continue that part of the curriculum and so are the kids!

The *O.W.L. 7-9* children are finishing up the rest of their workshops in this course with Josh Langmead and Lisa Pilat as their facilitators. 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. It is hard to believe that another group of children will be taking this class and delivering their credos to the congregation in May!

Lastly, our plans for our new play space are plugging along. Stay tuned for a balance beam, musical board, sand and water tables, etc. to fill up that space in the coming months. There will also be a very special central structure for imagination play. Wait until you see it!!

I hope everyone's transition to a new year of our Children's Religious Education program has gone smoothly (for both the kids and the parents). I love being with all the children and getting to know them better and better.

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions, and/or concerns regarding Children's Religious Education at First Church, please feel free to contact me at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org. With love, Grace

Grace has office hours on Sundays 8:30 am-12:00 pm, Mondays 11-2 and
Tuesdays-Thursdays 10:00 am-2:00 pm.
You may reach her at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org

From Donna Dolham our Ministerial Intern

What a joy it continues to be engaging with First Church and Parish as your ministerial intern with opportunities to facilitate worship with the youth of the congregation, conversations about systemic oppression and continued learning with all of you. In September I met with the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association and was granted the go ahead for ordination, pending completion of this internship. What a journey that whole process was, feel free to ask me about it. Thank you for all your support in my learning.

The Just Mercy craft group has been busy working away as we listen to Bryan Stevenson's book sharing his legal work serving death row inmates. Watch for our creations at the Holly Fair this year. Next "semester" I'll be offering another adult education class engaging a comparative view of women in the Qur'an and Hebrew Scriptures. Please watch for a sign-up sheet in the hallway in the Parish House. This 4 week course will begin Monday evening, January 22. This course is open to all who wish to attend. It will involve self-reflection and group conversations as we look at the intersection of these stories with our faith and our lives.

My office hours are on Monday and currently I am in Dedham on Sunday and Mondays, available by phone, zoom or skype on other days. My phone number is: 207-701-1581 and my e-mail is: ddolham@tds.net. There will be some Sundays you might notice that I'm not with you. I'll be facilitating two Beyond Categorical Thinking weekends with other congregations during those times over the next couple of months and will be away two weeks beginning in late December as I engage in a Border Crossing Learning opportunity in Israel.

These are times that call us to live into our Unitarian Universalist Faith; I'm so grateful to be doing that with all of you.

With Faith,
Donna

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

A Note from Linnea Bardarson, Music Director

Goodbye Summer. Hello Fall. As we settle into the rhythm of our bustling church year once again, keep in mind that Music awaits you here at First Church. You can listen to our choir sing each Sunday from the comfort of your pew, but perhaps you want more music in your life? Consider singing in the choir! You can try it out for a Sunday or two, no long-term commitment necessary. You will find us a welcoming and fun group, we think. There is also Inter-Generational Choir which sings the first Sunday of the month - just show up at 9:30am to learn an easy song we perform that morning (Next IG Choir will be 11/5) We would gladly welcome new voices to join our choir for the Christmas Pageant on December 10th - we will once again be singing Joyce Poley's beloved "Spirit of the Christmas Tree" which includes fairly simple songs for choir (and note that we are not actually IN the pageant, we sing seated in the pews). Lots of opportunities- contact Linnea or any choir member for more information. We want YOU sing with us!



**Come and Join the Fun at the
Annual
First Church and Parish in
Dedham
HOLLY FAIRE!**

**Saturday December 2, 2017
10:00 am-2:00 pm**

- ❖ *Tag Sale Items galore at our Trading Post in the Auditorium! You're looking for it? We have it! Kitchen and cooking items, gardening items, toys & games, etc.*
- ❖ *Finer Treasures in the Alliance Room (serving pieces, art, antiques, jewelry, etc.)*
- ❖ *Festive greens, Yummy food for sale, Creative Crafts, Great Gifts and a Delicious lunch all in the Dining Room*
- ❖ *"Just for Kids" shopping table also in the Dining Room*
- ❖ *Wonderful Themed Baskets and a Beautiful Quilt by Eileen Sullivan for our Raffle*

Please Sign up to help with the biggest fundraiser for our church!

Sign-Up Sheets are on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

Sign up to help in the Trading Post!

Sign up to help with the lunch!

Sign up to help sell food, crafts, gifts!

Sign up to help sell greens or help kids get presents for their family and friends!

Please contact Cindy Jones at incinnyluwho@yahoo.com or Grace Pena at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org if you have any questions regarding the Holly Faire.

Adult RE

Mondays 10-noon (starting September 18)

Craft and Discussion Group, 10am – noon on Mondays for 11 weeks: Come join in discussion bring your craft or just yourself. Please notify me if you'd like to learn needle felting, and I'll make sure we have enough supplies...The Holly Fair is coming!!!!

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

A New Book Group First Wednesdays at 7 pm in the Parish Hall

Want to open your mind and heart to other ways of being in the world? This book group will aim to do so. We will begin by reading Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance and move on to other invigorating titles such as (but not limited to) The Righteous Mind, Deer Hunting With Jesus and any others the collective can come up with that might help us better understand the current state of affairs. We will read a different book each month and will spend this first meeting getting to know each other and setting our expectations for getting together.

Email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or sign up on the bulletin board outside the dining room.

Our Whole Lives (OWL) For Adults

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. 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

Friendship Dinners The Membership Committee will be gearing up to offer Friendship Dinners again this year. If you would like to host, or did not get invited to one last year, please contact the church office. Firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or 781-326-7463

Care and Concerns

Pat Hawkins fell at work on Halloween and broke her collar bone and finger. She will be home recovering for some time. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers for a speedy recovery.

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.

David and Janet Hurwitz have been surrounded by family as their son has been home from Amsterdam and staying with them, and Janet's sister has been recovering and has moved in with them. David is recovering but still has some memory issues. Please keep Janet, David and family in your thoughts and prayers. We hope to see Janet and her sister in church again soon.

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 at First Church

Dedham Food Pantry First Church will be helping to staff the Dedham Food Pantry on Saturday November 4 from 8:00 am – 11:00 am. Please consider signing up to help stock shelves, people shop, etc. A sign-up sheet is on the bulletin board in the Parish Hall.

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:

- **November 5th Globe Santa**—working globally to end injustice and poverty.
- **November 19th Dedham Food Pantry**- striving to end hunger in Dedham.
- **December 10th UUSC**- fosters and strives to end injustice throughout the world.
- **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.

September and October Parish Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting September 11, 2017

Present:

David Miller, Matt Grady, Geoff Tegnell, Noreen King, Susan Sennott, Susan White, Kathy Elefterakis, Cindy Jones, Andrea Gilmore, Audrey Cecil, and Rali Weaver

Meeting called to order 7:05 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of August 7, 2017

Motion to approve minutes-seconded-voted-approved

Minister's Report - Rali Weaver

- Almost 200 people attended the Love and Peace Vigil on the Green
- Hosted Breaking Aids Ride- staff helped
- Thanked Women's Alliance for sending people to Star Island
- Safe Church Policies-looking for a committee of three or four people to put forth a proposal

DRE Report written and submitted by Grace Pena

- Upstairs classrooms painted
- New outdoor play space started
- Office hours for Grace- Sunday s 8:30 – 12, Tuesday – Friday 9-12

Treasurer's Report - Cindy Jones

- Over budget - \$1,978.63
- Pledges and plate collections low for August
- Geoff said letter sent out in June by the Deacons was a good reminder
- Pledges 98% of budget amount
- Motion to approve Treasurer's Report- seconded-voted-approved

Review Action Items

Andrea: She and Natalie looking for chairs that would fit in racks- storage system more critical –

Andrea: New contract for Bay State-money paid June 30, 2017

Susan/Rali Retreat

- Donna would be an excellent choice to lead the Retreat
- Have Retreat here and choose a date and time
- PC choose 3 goals for the coming year and email to Susan
- Suggestions – Reinvigorate committee system and long range planning

Old Business

- Discussion about funding pulpit during Rali's sabbatical
- Motion to set aside \$20,000 from restricted fund for the Sabbatical Ministry Services to support a full time minister for a six month sabbatical period- seconded-voted-approved
- Building Use Form and Withholding
- Update form to reflect the following staff should be paid separately- Linnea, Sexton, Rali and Grace
- Deacons confirm with auditors before changing form

- Building Use Committee – Deacons and Natalie- Facilitator-Grace

New Business

-Date for Special Fall Meeting is November 12, 2017

-Jen Greaney will be asked to be Moderator

-Share the Plate for coming year

September 24 St.Vincent DePaul

October 29 Oxfam

November 19 Dedham Food Pantry

December 10 UUSC

January 7 UU Urban Ministry

February 25 Benevolent Fund

March 18 Partners in Health

April Amnesty International

May Louis D. Brown

June Dedham Community House Camp

Next Meeting - October 2, 2017

Meeting Adjourned 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted - Susan White, Clerk

Parish Committee Meeting Minutes, October 2, 2017

We voted to accept the minutes of our September meeting.

Rali read her minister's report. Rali suggested that the Ministry Committee start to revise the Safe Church policy in order ready it to present to Parish Committee. Richard Hellegers has crafted a draft of a new Long Range Plan which he will give to the new LRP committee for their revisions. Then it will be run by the Parish Committee and presented to the Congregation at the fall meeting. Rali has organized a yard sale where participants are to pay \$25 per table. This will be held next weekend. The financial advisor spoke with congregants about preparation for retirement. Rali will be away the weekend of the 13th of October. Rali is asking the Parish Committee about the possibility of cancelling the Sunday service on Xmas eve. The Parish Committee members discussed this proposal and observed that a Sunday morning service was probably redundant and also excessively onerous for Rali.

DRE Report: At last count on 9/24/17 we had 31 children attending our Nursery-OWL 7-9 RE classes. Both our Nursery and Spirit Play classes have increased from last year. When OWL ends in January, students from that class will move on to Coming of Age.

Treasurer's Report: Cindy let us know that pledges are on target, Bay State Learning is paid up, the split of the office administrator payment between Grace's remuneration is slightly higher because she is covering the office on a couple of days a week. Office Admin payments, however, are coming out to be even, in the Grace's increase salary is matched by Pat's decreased remuneration. We are some \$3000 over budget. Geoff and Andrea will talk to George Popham about paying rent at the beginning, not the end, of the month. We are \$3117.28 over budget.

Fundraising: there will be a Valentine's Day Cookie Exchange held on Saturday, February 11. The service auction will be held on April 28th. Open Mike Night might be held on a Saturday in January. Cindy will produce flyers for some of these events. Holly Faire is talking about accepting books and Rali thinks that Boomerangs and other second hand book sellers will take the excess books.

Building and Grounds: New chairs are needed by January 1. Andrea is looking at Samsonite chairs. Need to make plans to ditch the old chairs via Craig's List. Andrea is ordering one box of 4 for us to take a look at.

Fall Meeting on Sunday, November 12th with Jennifer Greaney to serve as moderator. Rali proposed that we might set up a reciprocal auditing relationship with another UU church. At some point too we should prepare for the day that Ollie and Claudia will no longer be our auditors.

Old Business: Our new Building Use form is in drop box. We voted to accept the building and use form revisions that Rali is currently making.

We will have quarterly executive session.

Nominating Committee: Geoff will set up and recruit new members.

Rali will ask Steve Brayton to head Stewardship again this year.

We discussed the refugee hosting proposal from Father Steve at St. Susannah's. Rali is being instrumental in encouraging the town government to sponsor a human rights commission, so she is reluctant to get involved, The Women's Alliance is thinking of sponsoring our church's participation in this project. Rali will pass on information from St. Susannah's to the Women's Alliance.

The Parish Committee Retreat is being set up with Donna for Saturday, 9:30 AM till 2:00 PM on November 11. Brainstorming for retreat: Donna said she understood we wanted to focus on three goals for upcoming years, one being to get more involved with regional. She asked us to consider the following questions; What is our goal for this session? How does this goal speak to our Parish Committee mission and roles? What is the culture of our practice of leadership in this congregation? Is there anything about that culture that we'd like to explore? Donna will also provide opportunities in the session to develop fellowship and get to know each other better. She wants us to provide ideas about the above to her at the meeting and via email in the near future.

Committee Members brought up the need for concrete and useful goals for this retreat which will provide us with a grand vision of the church community and give us ideas about how to welcome and integrate new people. One member thought that we should assess our work in 2016-17 on committee revitalization. How can we translate our mission into specific objectives for each committee? It is important to have good moderation that keeps us on track. Another stated that we should limit topics so we have time to thoroughly explore them. We should also set up the schedule that will enable us to move around. Donna is going to send out an article on spiritual leadership that we will commit to reading before the retreat.

One committee member said that she wished we were more involved with the Urban Ministry, now that we are on an even keel. Rali noted that we are in a different sized church now and this brings about other challenges.

Our next meeting is scheduled for November 6th.

**Office Hours
Monday-Friday 10-2**

Grace Peña, Acting Director of Religious Education and Building Use Coordinator
Monday 11-2, Tuesday through Thursday 10-2

Pat Hawkins Office Administrator
May be out of the office recovering from a fractured collar bone and finger.

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 and Thursday Mornings 9:30 am

AA Groups

Sunday Dedham Village AA Meeting 5-10 pm

Private Women's Meeting 6-8 pm

Classical Guitar

**John Muratore performs
classical and Jazz influenced
pieces.**



**Saturday, November 4 at
8:00pm**

**First Church & Parish in
Dedham, 670 High Street**

**\$15/person Tickets available at the
door or at**

<https://bpt.me/3149471>

**(there will be a small service charge added to
the cost of the ticket)**

This is a fundraiser for First Church