



The First Church and Parish in Dedham

www.dedhamuu.org

Volume CXXXVII, No 2

November and December of 2016

Worship in November and December

Worship at 10 am in the Meeting House

Sunday, November 6, 2016

Kindness Beyond Belief

Donna Dolham

Our Ministerial Intern will preach

Where in our lives have we needed, given or felt kindness that transforms our hearts, relationships, and sense of humanity? When does kindness move over the threshold into radical hospitality? What in our Unitarian Universalist faith roots us along this path and how do we embody this belief? Please join us on Nov. 6th as we explore the transformational power of kindness in a culture where we hear messages of scarcity, separation and isolation.

Sunday, November 13, 2016

Serenity and Courage beget Wisdom

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach.

As the holidays start to gear up, and we are pulled in increasingly more directions, let us take this Sunday to ground ourselves in the serenity we need to find the courage and wisdom to carry us through.

Sunday, November 20, 2016

Thanksgiving Sunday

We will worship with the

Allen Congregation across the street

Deepening Compassion

The Rev. Cheryl Kerr

and The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

Sunday, November 27, 2016

Hope

The Rev Rali Weaver will preach

We will begin the advent season with deep exploration of hope.

Sunday, December 4, 2016

Joy

The Rev. Rali Weaver will preach

The second Sunday in Advent season and the day after our Holly Faire, we will count our blessings and cultivate the joy of the season.

Sunday, December 11, 2016

Amahl and the Night Visitors

**This is our music Sunday
and Pageant this year**

Amahl and the Night Visitors was written by Gian Carlo Menotti and first performed for television on December 24, 1951.

Sunday, December 18, 2016

Love

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will preach

Saturday, December 24, 2016

Christmas Eve

Caroling begins on the green at 6

Sunday, December 25, 2016

Merry Christmas

No worship at First Church

**If you wish to worship on Christmas
morning we suggest**

St Pauls

Allin Congregational

St Susannah's

St. Mary's

Sunday, January 1, 2017

"The Stories of Our Lives"

Donna Dolham will lead worship

From yesterday, to today and into tomorrow; what are the stories of our lives? What are the stories of the life of our congregation? Please join us for this intergenerational service that will weave story, play, imagery and music. Watch for opportunities to share the stories of your lives, and together we'll build a service that touches the nature and heart of First Church and Parish in Dedham.

If you do not receive the Weekly Email or would like an electronic version of the Parish Record or a print out of an order of worship, please contact the church office: firstchurch@dedhamuu.org or 781-326-7463

From Our Minister

November will be a transformative month. Our election results will be in, and before we know it the news reports will be unraveling all the cracks in our democracy. Last summer, at the UU General Assembly, the delegates gathered and voted on the study/action issue of “the Corruption in our Democracy”.

The Congregational Study/Action Issue is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it, take action—each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement—it is a question.¹

The First Parish in Concord has begun to work to study this issue and has invited all neighboring congregations to engage together in this study/action issue. They are currently looking for one representative from each congregation to help begin this collaborative exploration. If you are interested in helping us get our congregation involved in this Study/Action Issue in collaboration with the Concord Church and would be willing to serve as our liaison, please let me know.

Starting in January we begin our second Community Read, this time of The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness by Michelle Alexander. Copies of this book will be available starting in January. If you would like to get involved in this effort or the planning for the February Justice Matinee Series please let me know.

Susan Sennott serves as our liaison to the UU Urban Ministry², and toward the end of November and early December she will be coordinating the gift giving for Renewal House³. On December 18th we will have a Mitten Tree in worship to collect your new or gently used Hats, Mittens, Scarfs and Gloves for the UU Urban Ministry.

No matter who is elected this November, we know there are countless injustices in this world we live in. Opening our eyes a bit more every day will help us to articulate the problems in new ways and hopefully help us live into a new day.

In the Month of November we will be sharing worship with the Allen Congregational Church on November 20th. Worship and Church School will take place across the street that day (at our usual 10 am start time). On that day we will share our traditional Bread and Cider Communion as part of worship and our offering will support the Dedham Food Pantry.

I look forward to worshipping together this Holiday season.

Love, Rali

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver

Office Hours: (Monday Day off) Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday 9-2, Friday Sermon Writing
And by appointment 617-459-5979 raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

¹ <http://www.uua.org/statements/current/corruption-of-our-democracy>

² <http://www.uuum.org/>

³ http://www.uuum.org/?page_id=199

From Grace Peña- Acting Director of Religious Education

The Children's Religious Education program kicked off on Sunday 9/18/2016 with an introduction to the new curricula. During the following weeks, we all got used to our new transition from the Children's Message in the Meeting House to gathering in the Parish House for classes and activities.

Each Sunday while *Spirit Play* and *Neighboring Faiths* settle into their regular classrooms, the first through the sixth grades meet in the auditorium. We start off with a snack which the kids really love. We then move into a centering time by gathering in a circle to light our own chalice and say our own credo:

*We are Unitarian Universalists
With minds that think,
Hearts that love and
Hands that are ready to serve.*

We then discuss the theme from the Children's Message and also our own Unitarian Universalist Principles. The activity choices are described and the children are then off and running!

During September and October we have decorated our own *Mish Mash Hearts*, written affirmation greeting cards, done some role play and also looked at our new playground space to come up with some fun ideas for that new space (bumper cars anyone?!).

At the end of the activities, we all gather in a circle again to share what we each did/created. We see how our activities are connected to our principles and to the theme of the Children's Message. Everyone is asked to share, but we also let them know it is okay to pass.

As the weeks go along, we will continue these patterns. The goal is to have the kids get to know one another better while getting to understand our Unitarian Universalist principles and see how they work in our everyday lives.

In October we also had our first Cool Deed! We talked about how to give to a charity using the Dedham Food Pantry and the Animal Rescue League-Dedham Branch as the charities we would give to. The kids decorated paper grocery bags with themes based on the charity they each chose. The bags for the Animal League were to be filled with soft items like old blankets and towels, cat and dog food, toys, etc. The bags for the Dedham Food Pantry were to be filled with non-perishable food and toiletry items. The children learned that it is easy (and fun!) to support a charity.

In other Children's Religious Education news, *Spirit Play* runs as smoothly as ever and *Neighboring Faiths* continues their studies of other religions. So far this year, they have visited Morning Star Baptist Church and First Encounter Church.

As we continue to get used to our new curricula in November and December, we will also have many special events to look forward to and participate in. In November we will celebrate our shared anniversary with the Allin Congregational Church with combined religious education activities. We will also make crafts to be sold at our Holly Faire.

In December we have a very special treat with the production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*. Although this will be a different experience for the children than our usual pageant, the kids will get to be involved with this show in new ways. It will definitely be an event to look forward to! We have our Christmas Eve service to look forward to in December, as well.

The Middle School Youth Group started their year of activities with a trip to Hanson Farm in Framingham. There the kids and a few brave adults went on the haunted hayride. November and December will have more activities for this group as well as our High School Youth Group led by Steve Davey.

R. E. certainly has a lot to celebrate! I look forward to the coming weeks and to spending time with your children!!

As always, if you have any questions, suggestions, and/or concerns regarding Children's Religious Education, please feel free to contact me at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org. My office hours are Sundays 8:30 am-12:00 pm, Mondays and Wednesdays 9:00 am-2:00 pm and Fridays 11:00 am-2:00 pm.

With love, Grace

AMAHL and the NIGHT VISITORS



Our Acting DRE is Grace Peña. You may reach her at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org or at **781-801-9857**.

From our Music Director Linnea Bardarson

Greetings!

I love the holidays and I am a sucker for holiday traditions. There were quite a few when I was growing up, and high on the list was pulling out the old vinyl LP recording of Gian-Carlo Menotti's beloved Christmas opera, "Amahl and the Night Visitors." It wasn't Christmas without playing our scratchy "Amahl" record. It was imperative that it be played while we decorated the Christmas tree. I don't think it occupied the #1 spot on the Holiday Tradition list; that spot was held by the Baking of the Saffron Bread. The Saffron Bread recipe was written on an old and tattered piece of paper, with measurements in "gills" and "drams." As the story goes, the recipe was brought over to America by a Cornwall miner ancestor. My mother only baked it at Christmas-time, the saffron being rare and hugely expensive in those days - one purchased it from the druggist - the delicate red threads wrapped in a small paper envelope carefully handed over the counter by the pharmacist.

If the smell of Christmas was saffron bread, then the sound of Christmas was *Amahl*.

There was no shortage of people in my family who loved to sing around the piano, including my grandmother, a pianist and choir director who could play anything, including the *Amahl* score. Christmas carols would be sung with gusto, and at one Christmas (I was too little to remember) there was an impromptu performance of *Amahl* in the living room, complete with bath-towel turbans for the heads of the Three Kings. Later, when my parents started attending East Shore Unitarian Church in Bellevue, Washington in the 1970's, we were astonished to learn that Leon Lishner, who sang the original Melchior in the NBC television broadcast of "Amahl" was a member of East Shore. My sisters and I were stage-struck around him - this was the voice that filled our living room at Christmas-time when we played the record and trimmed our tree!

This December I will not only listen to *Amahl* but will be able to participate, along with others in our congregation and community, in First Church's very own production of *Amahl and the Night Visitors*, to take place on Saturday evening, December 10th, and Sunday morning, December 11th during worship. It has been several years since we have put on an *Amahl* production. I am thrilled that we have resumed this tradition, which ended abruptly with the loss of our beloved Diane Winchester who was such a vital part of past productions - teacher, coach, music director, and singer. I hope that on a cold and crisp December night Diane will be looking down from the sparkling Heavens in her sparkling hat, smiling upon our endeavors and encouraging us.

Peace,

Linnea Bardarson

**Please watch our calendar in the Order of Worship and All Church email
and check the website www.dedhamuu.org
to stay up to date about upcoming events.**

Small Group for Moms

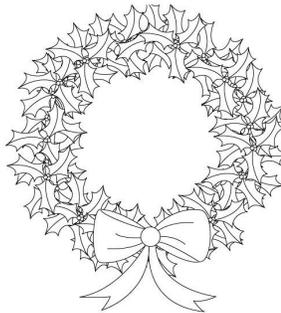
**Next meeting Friday, November 4 at 6pm in the Parish Hall
And then we will go to the Stress Busting Coloring Night
All Moms Welcome!**

Let's get the whole year on the calendar! First Fridays of the month: September –June.

We welcome mothers with children living at home to join a Mom's group that meets on the second Friday of the 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 bringing food). If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the dining room or email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

We will gather on Christmas Eve, December 24th at 6pm for Caroling on the Green
at 6:30 In the Meeting House
Our traditional Candlelight, Lessons and Carols Service

Followed by a Reception on the Green (Weather Permitting)
Hot Cocoa and Cider will be provided; cookies and finger foods are welcome.



Merry Christmas!

We will not worship together on Sunday, December 25th Christmas Day.

If you wish to worship on Christmas Day

We suggest

St. Paul's Episcopal, 59 Court Street, Dedham at 10:30 am

Or

Allin Congregational Church, 683 High Street at 9:45 am

We will return for worship in the Dining Room on January 1st 2018.

Membership Committee is reviving Friendship Dinners

If you have not yet received an invitation please notify the church office.

firstchurch@dedhamuu.org

We want everyone to have an opportunity to participate.

Civic Engagement at First Church

The Corruption in our Democracy

Fred Van Deusen, a member of First Parish in Concord, Massachusetts, is looking for a member of our congregation who is interested in working on the latest UUA Congregational Study Action Issue (CSAI): The Corruption of our Democracy (voted on at General Assembly, 2016).

First Parish in Concord began studying this issue last year as an important part of the work they have been doing on the prior UUA CSAI of "Escalating Inequality". It has become clear to them that we need to raise everyone's knowledge about the impact of big money on our political system, our democracy, and on our rights as individuals. Many of our other social justice activities, including environmental activism, race relations and reducing gun violence, are hamstrung by the negative impact of money in politics. We must change this to move forward.

They are hoping, by getting representatives from each congregation, we will build momentum that will move this issue forward. They will be using email and an on-line video conference tool to enable our work together.

If you are interested in getting involved please contact Rev. Rali Weaver 617-459-5979 or raliweaver@dedhamuu.org

Coming in January:

Watch your All Church email and your order of service for our next All Church Reads of:

The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the age of Colorblindness. Copies will be available for purchase or borrow in January.

If you would be interested in helping plan the February Justice Film Series please contact Rev. Rali Weaver raliweaver@dedhamuu.org. 617 459 5979

Our theme this year is Social Activism.

Susan Sennott will be handing out wish lists and collecting gifts for Renewal house in Roxbury.

If you would like to know more about UU Urban Ministry activities

Contact Susan Sennott ssennott1@gmail.com 781-752-6742

Guest at your Table Boxes: You are invited to bring a guest at your table box home to add change to in the Month of November for the UUSC. Guest at the table boxes will be given out the last week in October and first two weeks of November and collected on the first Sunday in December. If you would like a box, feel free to contact Grace Peña or Rev. Rali Weaver.

September Parish Committee Minutes

Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting

September 12, 2016

Present:

Julia Gecha, Natalie Jensen, Kathy Elefterakis, Geoff Tegnell, Andrea Gilmore, Cindy Jones, Debbie Harrison, Noreen King, Matt Grady, Audrey Cecil, Rali Weaver, Donna Dolham (intern)

Meeting called to order: 7:07 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of August 15, 2016

--Motion to approve minutes --seconded--voted---approved

Minister's Report--Rali Weaver

--See written report

--Catching up with committees and employees

--Will follow up with movie people about more money to repair lawn and keep security deposit

--Donna Dolham started and will have listening circles to meet people

Director of RE Report--written report of Grace Pena

--Clean out upstairs RE spaces not finished due to hot weather

--RE library to be relocated to Grace's office area

--Building and Grounds to hire painter for hallway/stairwell

--Steve Davey to add RE logo to wall

--New playground in process

--RE curriculum is planned for first half of year; children to have centering time and then choose from several activities (based on UUA Tapestry of Faith program: art, cook, read, sing, physical play, etc.) related to theme of service. Snack will also be offered

--Continue Cool Deeds, Spirit Play, Neighboring Faiths, OWL, and Coming of Age

--Desi Langmead continues as Nursery caregiver

Treasurer's Report--Cindy Jones

--FY 2017

--Income:

--18.75% pledges paid

--Yoga paid 4 classes in July, nothing paid for August yet

--Building Use down; included initial \$\$ from movie people

--Geoff to check with Bay State about rent due first of month

--Electric box needs inspection and possible upgrade

--No new significant changes

--Expenses:

--Parish House Utilities: sewer and water very high

--Parsonage: sewer 8% over budget

--Pat to ask for inspection, trouble shoot about water and sewer

--No other significant changes

--Overall: \$1,700 over budget

--Motion to accept Treasurer's Report--seconded---voted---accepted

Building and Grounds--- Andrea Gilmore

--Landscaping (Andy David Landscape) and Parish House roof new

--Fencing needs chains adjusted to be removable

--To get maintenance contract for landscaping for better upkeep

--Parking Policy for Norfolk House tenants:

--6 month rentals—pay 2X/year

--Deacons accepted policy

--Building Use Comm. to administer

--Deacons to handle Bates Court neighbors' tradition of parking in our lot

Fundraising Committee—Cindy Jones

--Cindy and Jane Kelly met

--Tentative schedule of events:

--Nov. 4: Pre-holiday stress busting coloring

--Dec. 16: John Muratore (Classical guitar) to support turkey giving event

--Feb 12: Pre-Valentine's Day pancake breakfast

--April 9: Mother-Daughter Tea

--May 20: Yard Sale

--June 4: Ice Cream Social

--Possible service auction and dinner and/or pie sale in autumn

--Harvest Dinner: tough year with drought for farmers; likely not do it this year

Donna Dolham

--Introductions

--Rali and Donna to Moral Monday Walk today

--2 sermons about voting morally before Nov. 8 (Election Day)

Committee Summer Reading Book: Rali, Audrey, and Natalie

--Committee to complete the book's 4 quadrant process for next meeting

--Goal to enliven committees through quadrant process

(Book: How The Way We Talk Can Change The Way We Work by Kagan and Lahey)

Financial Issues--Deacons

--Kathy to open four accounts at Dedham Institution for Savings (to support local institution)

--Deacons have four money market accounts with Vanguard, but those accounts were accidentally moved to Alliance Funds in 2014

--Signatories for Alliance: Susan White, Janet Hurwitz, and Elizabeth Martin

--One will request all accounts be closed and balances of funds be sent or transferred to new accounts at Dedham Institution for Savings

--Deacons of First Church and Parish in Dedham:

Kathryn Elefterakis

Andrea Gilmore

Geoffrey Tegnell

--Deacons are authorized to be the signatories for the following funds:

First Church in Dedham Meeting House Fund

First Church in Dedham Building Maintenance Fund

First Church in Dedham Steeple Clock Fund

First Church in Dedham Cash Management Fund

--Motion to establish four (4) accounts (First Church in Dedham Meeting House Fund, First Church in Dedham Building Maintenance Fund, First Church in Dedham Steeple Clock Fund, and First Church in Dedham Cash Management Fund) at Dedham Institution for Savings and that the Deacons (Kathryn Elefterakis, Andrea Gilmore, and Geoffrey Tegnell) will be the signatories.

--Seconded—voted--motion approved

(Rali and Donna leave)

Ministry Committee Report

--Various feedback from Parish Committee members

--Invite Ministry Committee to October PC meeting; Natalie will contact the committee

--How will the committee follow up suggestions and goals in the report?

Next Meeting: Monday, October 3 at 7:00p.m.

Meeting adjourned 9:30p.m.

Respectfully submitted, Deborah Harrison, Clerk

November and December Calendar

**Office Hours
Monday-Friday 9-2**

Grace Peña, Acting Director of Religious Education
Monday, Wednesday 9-2 and Friday 11-2

Pat Hawkins Office Administrator
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday 9-1

Rev. Rali M. Weaver
Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 9-2
Friday Sermon Writing
And by appointment

Donna Dolham
Ministerial Intern
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



Healing Art Yoga
Karen Kaplan LMHC ERYT 617-966-6541
Monday Evenings 6:15-7:30 pm, Friday Mornings 7:30-8:45 am

AA Groups

Sunday Dedham Village AA Meeting 5-10 pm

Tuesday Beginners Meeting 9-11 am

Private Women's Meeting 6-8 pm

Save the Dates:

Friday, November 4th 7 p.m.
The Pre Election Stress Busting Coloring Night for Adults
(see Flyer in this Parish record for details)
Mom group meets at 6 and goes to event.

Sunday, November 6th
Handle and Hayden Concert at the UU Urban Ministry
(Details below)

Sunday, November 20th, 2016
Anniversary Service at Allin Church (across the street)
10 am worship start time.

Saturday, December 3, 2016 Holly Faire
Drop off begins the Saturday after Thanksgiving 11/26/16

Sunday, December 11, 2016
Amahl and the Night Visitors (Music Sunday and Pageant)
(Special evening Performance Saturday night, December 10)

Friday, December 16 8 pm
John Muratore Concert
At First Church
Watch your order of service and all church email for details

Saturday, December 24th, 2016
Christmas Eve
Begins with Caroling on the green at 6pm
Candlelight Lessons and Carols Service at 6:30
Followed by a reception on the green (weather permitting)

Sunday, December 25th
Merry Christmas
No morning worship
If you wish to worship Sunday Morning consider going to
St Paul's Episcopal services at 10:30 am
Allin Congregational Church 9:45 am

We will be sharing our offerings with:

11/20 Dedham Food Pantry, 12/18 UUSC,
1/29 YWCA, 2/26 Benevolent Fund, 3/19 The UU Urban Ministry, 4/30 Amnesty International,
5/21 The Lois D. Brown Institute, 6/4 The Community House Camp

Handel and Haydn Society

When: Sunday, November 6, at 3:00 pm

Where: First Church in Roxbury, 10 Putnam St., Roxbury MA 02119

Founded in Boston in 1815, the Handel & Haydn Society is considered the oldest continuously performing arts organization in the United States. H+H's Period Instrument Orchestra and Chorus are internationally recognized for historically informed performances of baroque and classical music that use instruments and artistic techniques from the time period in which the music was written.

Tickets are Free and are available through the [Handel and Haydn Society website](#)

pre-election, stress-free adult coloring party



friday, november 4th

7:00pm to 9:00pm

first church, dedham

621 high st



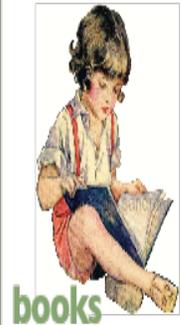
gently used
TOYS



delicious
HOMEMADE
FOODS

Sat
DECEMBER
3rd

Fresh
BAKED
GOODS



books

Jams
JELLIES



Local
HONEY

First Church
HOLLY FAIRE

670
HIGH
STREET
Dedham
Ma

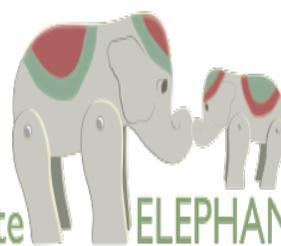


HANDMADE CRAFTS

SPECIAL
treasures



White ELEPHANT
TRADING POST



gifts 

continental
BREAKFAST

9AM
to
2PM

