

The First Church and Parish in Dedham

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

Volume CXXXVI, No VI July & August of 2016

Summer office hours starting July 1

Pat Hawkins: Wednesday 12-6

Grace Peña: Wednesday 9-2

Rev. Rali Weaver on phone and by appointment

Calendar of Outside Events

Sunday

5 pm AA Meeting Dedham Village

Monday

6:15 p.m. Healing Yoga

Tuesday

 9 a.m. AA meeting in Dining Room

10:30 a.m. Senior Fitness Auditorium

Wednesday

 6 pm Private Women’s 12 Step Meeting

3-7 pm Dedham Farmer’s Market

Thursday

10:30 a.m. Senior Fitness

Friday

7:30 am. Healing Yoga

Watch the church calendar, weekly email, order of service and website for more details.

Important Sunday Events

June 19 Lay Led Summer worship begins

July 3 and September 4 Holiday Weekend:

NO Worship

September 11, 2016, Water Communion

and Picnic on the Green following Worship

Sandwiches and Paper Products provided

Drinks, Salads and Dessert are welcome.

Please see our website

For the complete and up-to-date calendar www.dedhamuu.org.

Sundays in June, July and August

**Lay Led worship in the Dining Room of the Parish House at 10 am.**

**Summer Preaching Schedule**

6/19/2016 Iyabo Obasanjo

6/26/2016 Judy Barrington

**7/3/2016 Fourth of July Weekend- No Worship**

7/10/2016 Cindy Jones

7/17/2016 Steve Brayton

7/24/2016 Carol Dixon and Jeff Hutton

7/31/2016 Kayla Chicoine & Chris Schneider

8/7/2016 Allison Staton

8/14/2016 Sharon Lane

8/21/2016 Geoff Tegnell

8/28/2016 Rev. Rali M. Weaver

**9/4/2016 Labor Day Weekend- No Worship**

9/11/2016 Homecoming Sunday in the Meeting House, 10 am Rev Rali Weaver will Preach Water Communion Picnic to follow worship Sandwiches & paper goods provided

**Mark Your Calendars**

**Homecoming Sunday**

**September 11, 2016**

**Water Communion**

The Rev Rali M. Weaver will preach

We will gather together after our summer apart to celebrate our yearly water communion.

Everyone is asked to bring some water from their summer apart to share as part of worship.

Following the service we will have a picnic on the green. Sandwiches and paper products provided. Drinks, Salads and Desserts are needed.

**From Our Minister**

It is difficult to fathom another church year has already come and gone. It doesn't help that just as we were wrapping up, the reports of the worst mass shooting in American History were made known. It feels incongruous to celebrate such a wonderful church year (and play softball) when also facing such a heartbreaking and unfathomable tragedy. How can we rest and recreate when the unthinkable happens? And yet how can we not continue to live in the midst of tragedy? So much chaos and disharmony in the world is actually impossible to fathom if we do not occasionally turn off the news. We need to approach each event as new if it is ever going to be something we can fully make sense of and do something about.

I hope you did get word that we had a prayer vigil on June 18th to honor those who died on June 10th and 11th. Prayer Vigils are meant to give us a place to grieve together and to help us sooth our wearied souls. When we wake up to the fact that more than 30,000 people die from gun violence each year, we know that grieving together and soothing our spirits after these tragedies is no longer enough. What we really need is action. As I write this (on June 15), I am watching the Democrat Senate filibuster in an effort to pressure Republicans to accept legislation that would deny suspected terrorists from purchasing firearms and require universal background checks. I pray that by the time you read this there has been some action, but I also know that there are countless issues that need our witness and our voice. Tomorrow Jenny and I are headed to Hynes Convention Center to help register new immigrants to vote. Doing everything we can to make our democracy alive and fair is one way we can keep moving the pathway toward change.

As most of you know I have also been raising my voice against the increased development of fossil fuel infrastructure and lifting up a hope for a more sustainable future for our children. Let this missive remind you (and myself) that we cannot fight all the time and finding balance between raising our voices and sitting in silence is essential for fully living life and seeing problems more clearly. So as I head off in July to Vermont to rest my spirit and renew my joy so that I can continue the fight another day, I also take with me my concerns for the world and our community and a hope to find a peaceful response.

There are many ways to renew our spirits in the midst of this troubled yet beautiful world, and I hope church is one of them. If you would like to continue worshiping through the summer, please do try our summer services, which meet in the dining room during the summer months. These services are followed by a social hour hosted by Pam Aist and Judy Barrington. Thanks to all our First Church Friends who have offered to prepare a worship service for us this summer.

I will be relaxing by my lake in Vermont. Part of the joy of that is that I get to see family and friends I miss seeing for most of the church year, and part of the joy is taking time to swim and walk and breathe in fresh air. Getting away also allows me to spend uninterrupted time attending to tasks I can rarely approach during the church year. This summer I will be collaborating with our Children’s Religious Education Committee and Grace Peña to synchronize our church year calendar themes and make next year a time when we can deepen our understanding of what it means to be UU for all of us. I will also be updating our website and taking time to review all the feedback that came from the Ministry Evaluation Sessions this spring and preparing to reenter my PhD program next spring.

Summer is the perfect time for us to reflect and regroup. Getting off the clock and into the outdoors does something for our imaginations and creativity. I hope you have plenty of time to get out of your heads and do something different so that you can return with new ideas and new vision. And I hope I do too.

Please don’t hesitate to call or email me if you need me over the summer, and I look forward to coming back together on September 11th.

With love and appreciation for our loving community, Rev. Rali Weaver

The Rev. Rali M. Weaver will be on call and available during July and August

You can reach her at raliweaver@dedhamuu.org or 617 459 5979

or after July 1 try her land line in Vermont at 802-645-0298

She will be in person in Dedham July 19-21 and return from Vermont on August 26th.

**From Our Acting Director of Religious Education**

Greetings from R.E.!

Religious Education at First Church and Parish in Dedham finished with a bang in May and June. The classes met two out of the six Sundays.  The first three weeks of May were all scheduled class curricula. Sunday 5/15 was the final day of R.E. with classes, including O.W.L. K-1, meeting to sum up their semester(s), celebrate and start to work on their presentations for Children’s Sunday on 6/12/2016.

Although the classes were very busy during this time, we did not have a Cool Deed/Special Activity in May or June as the rest of the Sunday R.E. time was devoted to two intergenerational services (5/22 and 5/29) and two end-of-year services (6/5 and 6/12)

The first of our intergenerational  services on 5/22 was also our Coming of Age service.  What a wonderful service it was! We heard the credos of Foster Staton Todaro, Cookie Duncan, Colin Miller, Theo Ferentinos, Wyatt Staton Todaro and Jack Tocci.  With the guidance of their mentors, each student crafted a thoughtful credo and read it to their congregation.  They did such an amazing job! I was especially proud of them since I knew how concerned they were at the beginning of this class in January about getting up and reading their credos to everyone.  That is not easy, and they spoke so well with such grace.

The second intergenerational service was on Sunday 5/29.  We all got to listen to Rali’s wonderful service on remembrance.

We returned to R.E. from that long holiday weekend with the celebration of our Religious Education program for the year, which is also known as Children’s Sunday.  This was another joyful service.  The kids did a great job with their class presentations starting with Spirit Play’s lighting the chalice and saying their Ghandi Peace Greeting prayer.  Faithful Journeys, Toolbox of Faith and Neighboring Faiths all made presentations, too.  The kids all told what their favorite parts of their classes were and gave us a little insight into what they learned over the year.

We rounded off the presentations with our UU Youth Groups’ leaders telling us of the activities the middle and high school students participated in and the community service they performed.  They then welcomed the kids moving into the groups in the fall.

Lastly, in Rali’s homily she spoke of the plans that we have to revamp Religious Education starting next year.  We will be keeping the Spirit Play class, O.W.L. classes, Neighboring Faiths and Coming of Age.  The kids that fall into the classes in between will be offered a choice from a selection of three activities each Sunday.  This selection will include regular classes from the Tapestry of Faith curricula as well as classes from other UU R.E. curricula, fine arts activities, Cool Deeds and other project-based activities.  The idea is to have R.E. be more intergenerational and give kids more of a choice. We will be updating you on this new development as we create it over the summer.  We are very excited to make Sunday School into Sunday Cool!

Over the summer, along with creating the new curriculum, the Religious Education Committee and I will be working hard to clean, organize and beautify the upstairs R.E. wing.  Come September you will see a new hallway, a new Spirit Play classroom and a new Nursery/Office space for me.

This has been an incredible year for me as Acting Director of Religious Education.  I thought it could be a good fit for me when I was approached to interview for the position.  Now, I know it is a great fit!  I had so much fun with the kids, the teachers and the families.  I look forward to what is to come next year and to building a great R.E. program here at First Church.

I hope you all have a wonderful summer full of sunshine and joy!

If you have any questions, suggestions, and/or concerns regarding R.E. during this time please feel free to contact me at gracepenadre@dedhamuu.org.

 See you September! With love, Grace

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

Her office hours during the summer months is Wednesdays 9-2

Grace will also be available by appointment.

**Please watch our calendar in the Order of Worship and All Church email**

**and check the website** [**www.dedhamuu.org**](http://www.dedhamuu.org)

**to stay up to date about upcoming events.** .

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**Small Group for Moms**

**Next Meeting Friday, September 9th at 6pm in the Parish Hall**

**All Moms Welcome**

Let’s get the whole year on the calendar! Second, Fridays of the month: September –June.

We welcome mothers with children living at home to join a Mom’s group which 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).  If you are interested, please sign up on the bulletin board outside the dining room or email raliweaver@dedhamuu.org.

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**September 11th is our Homecoming Sunday**

We will celebrate Water Communion

Everyone is encouraged to bring water that represents our time apart

to share as part of worship.

Following worship we will have a beginning of the church year potluck lunch.

Sandwiches and paper products will be provided

Drinks, Sides and Desserts are welcome.

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**Membership Committee will be reviving Friendship Dinners**

Watch your all-church email and snail mail for your invitation.

Or contact

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

If you are willing and able to host

**Civic Engagement at First Church**

**UU Urban Ministry Events:**

The UU Urban Ministry's Summer Showcase series is going on and offers a glimpse into the music and culture of Roxbury. http://www.uuum.org

UU Urban Ministry is also looking for a Director of Outreach and Congregational Involvement. If you have interest and enthusiasm to enlist volunteer help for the wider UU Movement check out their posting on their website and apply soon. http://www.uuum.org/?page\_id=3952

**Pipeline Events:**

Spectra is nearing completion of its construction in West Roxbury so there will be an escalation in protests during the last week of June. If you are concerned about Climate Justice and the Dedham West Roxbury Lateral Pipeline, you are encouraged to attend any and all of the following events:

Friday June 24th: Non Violence Civil Disobedience Training

@ 6:15 – 9:00pm
Theodore Parker Unitarian Church
GPS: 1859 Centre St. West Roxbury, MA 01232

Saturday June 25th: Mass Action
8:00 am @ Construction site. Check for exact location!

Monday June 27th: Vigil @ the Metering and Regulating
(M&R) station, 6:30-7:30 pm
GPS: 10 Grove St, West Roxbury, MA 02132

Monday June 27th: Non Violence Civil Disobedience Training

@ 7:15 – 10:00pm
Theodore Parker Unitarian Church
GPS: 1859 Centre St. West Roxbury, MA 01232

 Tuesday June 28th: Mass Action
8:00 am @ Construction site.

 And on Wednesday, June 29th Rev. Weaver may be participating in another ministerial Action to register her dissent against the Pipeline and continued investment in Fossil Fuel. If you would like to participate with her, please be sure to attend a Non Violence Resistance Training before June 29th and contact her raliweaver@dedhamuu.org 617 459 5979 for more details.

http://www.resistthepipeline.org/

**Bike for Food:**

**Civic Engagement: Dedham Food Pantry Ride for Food**

 Can you ride a bike?

 We’re looking for a rider or riders from First Church in Dedham to join the Dedham Food Pantry Ride for Food team on Sunday, September 25th. The Ride starts right here in Dedham, and it focuses on raising funds to help end food insecurity in New England. The Ride for Food is an important fund raiser for the Dedham Food Pantry. The Ride provides necessary funds to help us provide healthy food for our clients. Did you know the Dedham Food Pantry spends $10,000 a month on milk, eggs, cheese, fresh produce, meat, and items that most of us take for granted like, toilet paper and detergent? Riders can choose from a 10, 25 or 50 mile ride. For more information or to register for the Ride, go to the [www.dehamfoodpantry.org](http://www.dedhamfoodpantry.org) or ThreeSquaresNewEnglandRidefor[Food.org.](http://www.food.org) The whole church community can make a difference by supporting our rider/s and contributing to the Dedham Food Pantry Ride for Food. For more information, contact Carol Dixon,

 caroldhixon@gmail.com.

**April Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**April 4, 2016**

Present:

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

Meeting called to order: 7:15 p.m.

Gratitudes

Minutes of March 7, 2016

--Motion to approve minutes --seconded—approved

Minister’s Report—Rali Weaver

 --Budget procedure needs clarification next year

 --Encourage PC to read Gill Rendle book (or other) about leading change

 --Easter: well attended; need more Orders of Service

 --Farmers’ Market to continue on Green

--St. Susannah’s interested in managing

--Ask First Church congregation about managing?

 --Ministry Comm. to offer 3 appreciative inquiry session

Interim Director of RE: see written report of Grace Pena

Treasurer’s Report—Sharon Lane

--74% pledges paid

--Building Use will surpass budget goal

--Yoga payments vary

--Pat to note dates of use

--Expected to pay monthly since space is reserved.

--Fundraising: need make $2,850

--First Church 2nd payment made

--Meeting House and Parsonage utilities OK

--Parish House water and sewer high

--Heating bills low

--Snow Plow $3,075 so far

--Received reimbursement for Plymouth house

--Overall $13,894 under budget

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

Nominating Committee—Geoff Tegnell

 --Committee: Geoff, Sue White, Iayabo, Paquita, Kathy Elefterakis

 --For Parish Committee: Audrey Cecil and Matt Grady

 --For Treasurer: Cindy Jones

 --Clerk: Debbie Harrison remains; Deacon: Andrea Gilmore remains

 --To check on Auditors

 --Geoff to ask Jen Greaney to moderate Annual Meeting

Long Range Planning—Geoff Tegnell

 --Dec. and March updates in report

 --To start 5th year plan

 --Ten year plan regarding inventory to be created

 --Thank you notes to pledgers; Andrea to write and send; deacons

 to send clarifying info

George Popham Meeting (Bay State Learning)—Andrea and Geoff

 --School committed to First Church for 2016-17

 --Contract signed, but not yet returned (rent increase)

 --Church to reorganize basement space; need storage and bathrooms

 --Church to upgrade electricity

 --School uses Community House space also

Peter Smith Meeting (Norfolk House project)—Andrea and Geoff

 --Tenant possibly rent 4 spaces in our parking lot?

 --To reclaim playground and clean up back area

Building and Grounds—Andrea Gilmore

 --Parish House lost many shingles

--$60,000 estimate to replace

 --To use highest quality shingles

 --Use Plymouth house money along with some from Bldg. Maintenance Fund?

 --Landscaping plans for entire property; looking at several proposals

Plymouth House—Andrea

 --Properties completely sold ($325,000)

 --Monies borrowed for closing costs has been repaid

 --Deacons to decide how money is used

 --Typically large donations used for large capital improvements

Stewardship progress

 --$73,000 pledged so far

 --61 of 83 pledge units so far

 --Stewardship Comm. to call those not pledged

 --Budget Hearing Sunday, May 1 after church

Draft Budget Process

 --Process needs clarification

 --Finance Committee should make budget then adjust as needed

 --Suggested that better to have high goals, then adjust depending on total raised

 --Another year, start budget process even sooner

Bookkeeper question---tabled

Ministry evaluation:

--Sessions on April 17 and 24 and May 4

--Parishioners encouraged to sign up for session

Parish Comm. group reading:

 --Suggestion for PC to read leadership and/or change over the summer

 --Rali and others to offer several possible titles

Meeting adjourned to executive session 8:46 p.m.

Next meeting: Monday, May 2, 2016 at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison,

**May Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**Minutes of the Parish Committee Meeting**

**May 2, 2016**

Present:

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

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

Gratitudes

Minutes of April 4, 2016

--Motion to approve minutes --seconded—approved

Minister’s Report—Rali Weaver

 --Jen and Dave Atkins new members

--Council on Committees met; Rali to make handbook regarding documents, procedures, and other info for chairs

--Annual Report to be put together with Steve Davey

--Civil disobedience against Lateral Pipeline on May 25

--Summer plans: vacation days TBA; check with Pat; notes ‘days off’; does pastoral visits; makes calls

--General Assembly in Cleveland; to introduce Rev. Joe Bassett

--Mass Bay District meeting with Sue Sennott: district to be dismantled

--First Public School: P. Reynolds and P. McMurtry idea to build prototype; First Church interested? First School was on First Church Green; PC would like to know more

Interim Director of RE: see written report of Grace Pena

Treasurer’s Report—Sharon Lane

--79% pledges paid

--Building Use will surpass budget goal

--Yoga payments still incomplete; Deacons to contact Karen Kaplan (yoga teacher)

--Fundraising: need $2,850 (other income is above budget, though)

--Baystate Learning: no March payment; Pat will follow up with them

--Meeting House and Parsonage utilities OK

--Parish House water and sewer high

--Heating bills low

--Building and Grounds $2,312 remains in budget

--Office expenses over budget

--Overall $8,332 under budget

--Big thanks to Sharon for all her excellent Treasurer work!!

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

Building and Grounds—Andrea Gilmore

--Driveways to be repaired; back area to cleared and cleaned up; resent MH steps

--Parish House roof replacement (befin after BSL ends in June

Norfolk House (Peter Smith)—Geoff Tegnell

--Additional parking for tenant in FC parking lot?

--Communication with insurance co.; need “Park At Risk” signs

--Parking spaces to be designated; cars to be moved for snow plow

--Possibly rent spaces for 6 or 12 months periods

--JP Congregation Church has sample form regarding parking rent

--Goal: parking fees cover snow plow costs

Ground Rents—Geoff Tegnell

--14 owners (neighbors) ‘rent’ ground from First Church

--Rent not collected since 2006

--Deacons looking into current valuation; goal to collect rents

Stewardship/Budget 2016-17—Sharon Lane

--$91,620 pledged but not meet goal of budget

--Non pledge donations will add to total income

--Decrease heating $$ and substitute ministers to balance budget

--Still need $2500; request $50 more per unit (cash or increase pledge)

 --Natalie to announce in church on May 8; envelopes available for $$ or pledge

--Motion to use PC reserves if need to balance budget—seconded---approved

Minister’s Contract

--Rali accepts contract

--Cindy and Sharon met with lawyers about trust agreement for house equity

 --To make “trust account” through Dedham Savings Investment

 --This fund totally separate from Church funds

 --Rali to send Dedham Inst. contact name to Sharon

Membership Lists—Kathy Elefterakis

--Kathy analyzed membership book and sorted ‘member’ names into 3 categories

 --Attempt to clarify number of signed members for UUA

 --Rali to inform UUA of new total numbers

 --Review of lists will continue

New Members:

--Jen and Dave Atkins officially welcomed by PC as new members

Annual Meeting

--Jen Greaney to moderate

--Auditors confirmed: Ollie Ames and Claudia Leone

--Ministerial Comm. to explain housing equity (Natalie to contact Claudia about that)

Anti-pipeline Activity: Rali

--Rali to participate in civil disobedience; likely to be arrested

--Actions relate to civic engagement, ‘green’ commitment, and public safety

Ministerial Evaluation: PC hopes for results before June

Building Use Committee

--Composition presently: 3 deacons and 2 PC chairs

--Discussion about adjust committee to 3 deacons and 1 member-at-large

--Deacons to liason with PC

--Suggestions of Natalie Jensen to join comm. since very available for questions

--Motion to change the makeup of the committee to 3 deacons and 1 member-at-large—seconded—approved

--Motion for Natalie Jenson to be at-large member of Building Use Committee—seconded—approved

Next Meeting:

-- Monday, June 6 at 6:00p.m.

--Pot luck dinner at Iyabo’s house (1 Alba Lane, Dedham) before meeting

--Natalie to invite new PC members

Meeting adjourned 9:00p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Harrison, Clerk