



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
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February 2022 Newsletter

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Deadline for March newsletter: Tuesday, February. 22, 2022

Worship: 10:25 a.m.
Multi-Platform:
In-person in our Old Ship Meeting House,
masks required
full vaccination strongly urged
and
also on the usual Zoom link

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

[Click here to join Sunday Worship!](#)

Sunday, February 6

"Continuation" will be Ken's sermon topic. The Buddhist monk and teacher Thich Nhat Hanh, who died last month at the age of 95, had written that there is no death, only continuation. What do we think? Does how we think about and envision death make a difference to how we live our lives? *(This sermon will serve as introduction to the "Facing Death With Life" class led by Rich Elliott and Ken beginning later this month - see details elsewhere in the newsletter.)*



Following this week's service, the Board of Trustees will lead a conversation concerning plans for seeking and hiring an Interim Minister. This will be multi-platform: In-person for those in the Meeting House and at the same time for those who are signed-in to the Zoom link.

Sunday, February 13

This day before Valentine's Day, Ken's sermon will be "And the Greatest of These." In Paul's Letter to the Corinthians he wrote that "faith, hope, and love

abide, but the greatest of these is love." Another Paul musically affirmed with his band-mates that "all you need is love." What do you think?

Sunday, February 20

"Even Those People?" will be Ken's sermon. Jesus enjoined us to love our enemies; the *Bhagavad Gita* tells us to view all people with "equal regard." Really? Can we do this? Should we do this? What about "those people" behaving (in our view ...) so badly? Are these affirmations more important than ever in these times of extreme polarization, rising racism, anti-Semitism, and many other forms of bigotry and "othering"?

Sunday, February 27

Ken will be preaching on "God By Any Other Name" - a theme that has woven its way, directly or indirectly, into much of his thirty-five years of preaching at Old Ship.



Donors For Sunday Flowers

Interested in being a donor for our Sunday flowers? **March 13th is available!** You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact [Sharon Prehn](#) (781-925-0101)

from the minister's desk **Musing**

I hope you were all able to be safe and warm during the storm. You were very much in my thoughts and prayers.



I composed this poem years ago after another snowfall; it sure seems relevant again this week following our two feet of snow:

"Saffron Sun Rises"

*Saffron sun rises.
No: earth turns toward saffron sun,
Sun's light glowing through winter-bare trees,
Across snow-clad fields,
Meeting my eyes
This morning...*

*Here, running past these woods,
One with the play of shadow and light,
Each breath a cold breath,
Here, on dear Earth, my home, our home.*

*Slowly warmed as we turn towards the sun,
As we slowly sail around the sun,
As together we sail through the Milky Way,*

Also our home.

*Ever expanding universe, cosmos,
Also our home.*

*May our light, too, shine,
Meet other eyes meeting ours,
This morning. Each morning.
Creating dawn.*

Peace and Blessings,
Ken (*he, him, his*)
cell: 781-635-2060
oldshipkrb@gmail.com



Fire Jumping!

We had a successful New Year's Fire Jumping Event on Sunday, January 23rd. Fire is often seen as cleansing. So we leap from the old year into the new. Leaving behind some things and hoping for others.



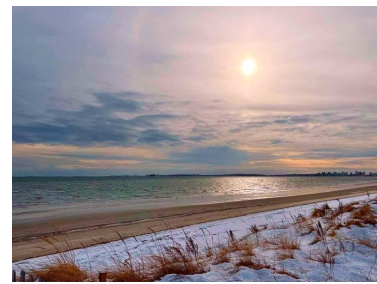
Old Ship youth brought a number of friends with them, given the meaningfulness to them of the tradition. They also missed having it be a large multi generational event as we have done few times in past . Therefore they're hoping to do something similar for spring equinox in March! Watch for a congregation wide invite!



Old Ship Board of Trustees February newsletter

Greetings and Happy Lunar New Year!

I am so pleased with the kickoff of our “New Horizons” pledge campaign the finance committee is leading. We have heard three wonderful heartfelt member testimonials and we will be hearing more. During this time of so much transition and renewal, we are being asked to continue to support and invest in the Old Ship mission and programs with our pledges.



In February, the search committee of the board will access the application packet from the UUA to complete and submit in the search for the Interim Minister. We will hold a multi- platform congregational meeting after the church service on Sunday, February 6th for questions and discussion about the search and hiring process. There will be additional opportunities scheduled for conversations with the search committee throughout the spring.

We are excited about the transformational work that is being done with religious education. The religious education committee members have all made huge personal contributions of time and energy to sustain the program during the last almost two years. We are very grateful and thank you for sharing your time and talents with Old Ship.

All the best,
Ginny Perelson (*she/her/hers*)
President, Board of Trustees

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

We are all on the pastoral care team, but our “Pastoral Care Leadership Team” meets each month to share any concerns about parishioners who are ill, in the hospital, or facing other significant challenges, and to coordinate responses. If you have a pastoral concern to share with our Team, please feel free to contact any member of the group:



[Ralph Brown](#)
[Liz Flint](#)
[Elaine Gomez](#)
[Alicia Harkness](#)
[Fan Leonard](#)
[Catherine Mayes](#)
[Carol Valentine](#)
[Joan Wilson](#)
[Ken Read-Brown](#)

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship Church,



The new year is underway and we are already testing our flexibility. After a brief stint of being fully remote, our Sunday services are hybrid again as we continue to listen, observe, and adjust to the world around us. I'm reminded of this passage from the Tao Te Ching: "A tree that is unbending is easily broken." I am so thankful that our tree can bend with the winds of change. And these changes continue to impact the decisions we make about music at Old Ship. The full choir is currently on break, but we continue to have our soloists share their voices with us. We anticipate bringing back the full choir in the coming weeks, so stay tuned!

I will be featuring music by black composers again this year for Black History Month. Though we sing and play music by black and other POC composers throughout the year, it is important that we note the importance of this music so that we can all celebrate its beauty and significance. I hope you enjoy these selections as much as I do.

Take care and stay well.

Musically Yours,
Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

Elizabeth Torrey

"I have a feeling that my boat
has struck, down there in the depths
against a great thing.



And nothing
happens! Nothing...Silence...Waves...

Nothing happens? Or has everything happened,
And are we standing now, quietly, in the new life?"

Juan Ramon Jimenez,

translated by Robert Bly

The words of Corita Kent:

"LOVE IS HERE TO STAY"

Education

Nursery care for the very young is provided each week in the Parish House nursery.



Sunday morning programs:

Please watch weekly updates to learn if classes are in person (we hope) or via Zoom (if Health/ COVID numbers indicate)

All programs will begin with attendance for the first part of the worship service at 10:25 am in the Meeting House:

- Faithful Journeys (Kindergarten - Grade 5)
- Neighboring Faiths / Building Bridges (Grades 6-7)
- Youth Group (Grades 8-12)
- Father Bill's Lunch Making - 4th Sunday of each month (all ages)
- Celebrations (all ages)

Other programs

- Coming of Age (Grades 8-10) – Sunday Evenings
- Interim Work with Deb Weiner, Our Transitional Religious Education Consultant

Please [register for the 2021-2022 year at oldshipchurch.org](https://oldshipchurch.org)

Religious Education Coordinator

We are still hoping to hire a 10 hour per week religious education coordinator for the year. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please let us know!

For more information

Please see Breeze (oldshipchurch.breezechms.com), oldshipchurch.org, upcoming emails or email dre@oldshipchurch.org.

Thank you!

You're RE Committee and Volunteers teacher team

Hingham Historical Society's 45th Lincoln Day Commemoration

Saturday, February 19 at 10:15 AM

[Brochure](#)

For many years - decades actually - we have been pleased to open our Meeting House for the annual Lincoln Day Commemoration sponsored and led by the Hingham Historical Society. Hingham's "Lincoln Day" honors two Lincolns, Hingham's own Revolutionary War General Benjamin Lincoln, and President Lincoln, whose ancestors were among the early settlers of Hingham. As you'll see from the brochure, this year the keynote speaker will be Abraham Lincoln biographer Michael Burlingame. Our own Ken Read-Brown will offer an invocation and benediction, and Christopher Nickelson-Mann will lead the music.



Life Learning Offerings

click here to see our [2021-2022 Life Learning brochure](#)



Facing Death with Life six sessions

Wed., Feb. 23 – March 30, 7:00 - on Zoom only

led by Rich Elliott, Claire Petrie, and Ken Read-Brown

Despite the constant presence of death, dying, and grief in our lives, we mostly avoid speaking of it openly and directly. This class will facilitate a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on topics relating to death and dying. We will invite participants to experience that death and dying is a natural part of life. For more information, to sign up, and for the Zoom link, contact [Ken](#) or [Rich](#).

Ongoing groups and gatherings

Bodhisattva Study Group – Continues to gather each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. On the first and third Sundays of each month, Ken Read-Brown leads the group, on Zoom only for now, through meditation and conversation. Our new book for a common read is *No Death, No Fear*, by Thich Nhat Hanh. On alternate Sundays members of the group lead the conversation on Zoom based a different reading each week. All are welcome. For questions and for the Zoom links, email [Ken](#).

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – our next gathering will be February 13 – in the Parish House parlor and on Zoom. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and, for the Zoom link.

Women's Breakfast and Conversation – Due to scheduling conflicts, the next meeting will be on Sunday, March 6. Ordinarily meets on the *fourth Sunday* morning of each month from 8:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. Open to all the women of the church. If you would like to attend, you may [click here](#) for the Zoom link or send an email to [Janice McPhillips](#) - all are also welcome to gather in the Parish House parlor. We gather to share our lives and enjoy one another's company. Conversations are confidential and, again, all are welcome!

Sacred Texts Meditation Group – Ordinarily meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 4:00 p.m. for meditation and conversation based on a shared text we are reading together, this year mostly from the Taoist tradition. The next meeting is Thursday, February 10. Email [Ken Read-Brown](#) for information and to be added to the email list and to receive the Zoom link for our gatherings.

Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. So our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, February 1, at 7:00 p.m. Given the particular danger of virus spread through singing, we will once again gather on Zoom. Email [Ken](#) with any questions about Ceilidh or for the Zoom link to attend.

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

Our next meeting is Saturday, March 19, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Contact [Davalene Cooper](#), if you need the Zoom link.



February's Special Plate Collection is for Boston Health Care for the Homeless —

This program provides comprehensive health care to over 11,000 homeless individuals each year. BHCHP provides care without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, military service, national origin, immigration status, genetic information or marital status. The layered crises of the COVID pandemic and the overdose epidemic have strained this program like never before, and our help is especially needed at this time. You can learn more about BHCHP at [Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program](https://bostonhealthcareforthehomeless.org/) | (bhchp.org). Cheryl Kane, a long-time nurse with BHCHP, will be at our Sunday service on February 13 to tell us more about the organization. The plate collection that day will be donated to BHCHP.

This is important work, which we are honored to support. You may make your donation [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to Outreach or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with BHCHP designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Special Plate Collections Update: Thanks to the congregation for the generous support of our special plate collections this year. In October, we donated \$3398.30 to the International Institute for New England's Afghan Resettlement Program. In November, we donated \$1156.62 to Free., a ministry that provides feminine hygiene products to woman and girls. In December, we donated \$4937.39 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program. In addition, our Christmas Eve Offering of \$4,568.22 was evenly split between UUSC, Father Bill's and Urban Ministry (\$1,522.74 each). These donations mean so much in a world where the need is so great. Thank you for your support!

Hingham Food Pantry — We are again collecting food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry. The food pantry only accepts non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food. There is a basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House for donations. Donations may also be left in the bins in the vestibule of the Parish House (front door) anytime the office is open. *Donations may also be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop (large bin at the front of the store).* Although all donations are appreciated, the food pantry reports that the following items are most needed at this time: Beef Stew, 1lb or 2lb bags of granulated sugar, Cookies, Peanut Butter, and 64oz Juices. Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043.

We thank everyone who donated 424 pounds of food to the Hingham Food Pantry in November and December.

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will next meet on Sunday, February 20, on Zoom, at 7 p.m. For both our February and March 20 sessions, we will be discussing *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, created by Nikole Hannah-Jones. Patti Smith will be leading our discussion of this important book. The February session will cover pages 1-246 and the March session will cover pages 249-480. For more information or if you have questions, contact [Davalene Cooper](#). This group is open to all who are interested in learning more about racism and its impact on our nation, past and present. It is a drop-in group so members may attend whatever book discussions they are most interested in. Here is the [Zoom link](#) for the February meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96947272743?pwd=OWpNOVQ2VWl3ZkJKL1NucXA3VkNvdz09>.

Mark your calendars for our May meeting which will focus on **A Conspiracy of Mothers** by Colleen Van Niekerk (2021). The novel explores South Africa's racial classifications during apartheid, the government's construct of whiteness, and how those classifications affected laws and practices related to sexual assault. Patti has made arrangements for the author to join us for our discussion. To accommodate Colleen's schedule, we will meet at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 on Zoom. Thanks Patti! And what an exciting event to hear from the author herself!

UUA's Side with Love Campaign — This is an advocacy campaign seeking to harness the power of love to work for justice and stop oppression in its many forms. You can learn more about the campaign and sign up to receive updates on how to participate at [Side With Love](#).

Afghan Resettlement Work Continues

Massachusetts has doubled the number of Afghan evacuees now expected to arrive in the Commonwealth. The six resettlement organizations now expect to serve about 2000 evacuees. If you would like to help with this effort, Old Ship has supported the work of the International Institute for New England; you may find out more about their work at [Home - International Institute of New England \(iine.org\)](http://iine.org). There is also a local group through South Shore Action that is working with the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (R.I.A.C.) in Boston. This group needs help in a variety of ways--filling welcome baskets, donating furniture and appliances, offering transportation, helping with the grocery shopping, and finding affordable housing. For more information or to volunteer or provide financial support, contact [Ann McCarthy-Egan](#), [Meg Glazer](#) or [Deb Emmett-Pike](#).

Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, and participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send

your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.

Honduras Hope: We received the following update from Kathy Swanson about Honduras Hope. Pictures will be posted on the church bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

To the Congregation of the Old Ship Church, Hingham:

First of all, I want to thank you for your past support of Honduras Hope. In the last few years you have supported us by providing funding for our high school scholarship program, for our girls empowerment program, and for rebuilding houses after the hurricanes in the fall of 2020. Also this past year you helped us rebuild the sewer and water pipelines that were also destroyed during the hurricanes of 2020.

During the pandemic, our programs have continued, due to the diligence of our local Honduran leaders. Our clinic remained open even while Covid crippled the area and hospitals were overwhelmed. We developed and expanded our tutoring program so that high school students could participate in online classes. And throughout the pandemic we provided food relief for both our communities, buying cornmeal, rice, beans and lard. These programs and food distribution were possible because of the continued donations of our US partners but also due to the hard-work of our in-country coordinator, our nurse and our education committee chair.

The future looks bright. In November 2021, Hondurans elected a new leader, the first woman president, Xiomara Castro. She is a social progressive, committed to improving the living conditions for the poor and distributing government funds to the areas of society who need it most. There are high expectations for her, one of several Latin American leaders recently elected who are determined to change the old guard of using government to become wealthy.

With the election of the new government there is hope in the air. People feel that they have been heard and that they have a future. Our young students feel this new hope and we must prepare them for the upcoming opportunities. They must be technologically ready. The pandemic taught us the importance of the internet and the need for online access. Our goal for this year is to wire our community and provide ipads for the high school students. Although ipads don't sound as impactful as food, medicine and clothing, they are a necessary instrument for the future, much like books, pens and pencils were in the past. With your help we want to equip the students with the learning tools they need; we hope to build a student body who believe in their hopes and dreams for a fruitful future. If you would like to help us with providing online access for our students, donations can be made either through our website, <http://www.hondurashope.org>, or by mail at Honduras Hope (make checks payable to Honduras Hope), P.O. Box 60, Franconia, NH 03580. As we say in Honduras Hope: *Juntos, todo es posible*.

The Old Ship Calendar

The Old Ship Church calendar is available on



our website by clicking [here](#).

If you have an upcoming event or meeting and you want to see it on the calendar, please email [Lisa](#) in the office.

Additionally, if your contact information has changed, please email [Lisa](#) so she can update the Old Ship database.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, February 1, 7:00 p.m. Zoom
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, February 3, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor
- **Committee on Ministry** - Tuesday, February 8, 5:00 p.m. Zoom
- **Welcoming Congregation Committee for the 21st Century** - Thursday, February 10, 7:00 p.m. Nursery & Zoom
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday, February 22, 1:30 p.m. Zoom

Welcoming Congregation Committee Meeting Thursday, February 10, 7pm (Nursery & Zoom)

The topic Sunday Service on March 6th - How we do Social Justice. We will be discussing and looking for input on WCC Sunday service. All ideas are welcome, especially for music and readings. Looking for input from all ages and all who attend Old Ship.



If you have questions, please email [Abby](#).
To [Join Zoom Meeting](#)

Welcoming Congregation Community - These words from Alice Walker may be even more relevant today. (from "In Search of Our Mothers' Gardens: Womanist Prose," 1983)

"Please remember, especially in these times of group-think and the right-on chorus, that no person is your friend (or kin) who demands your silence, or denies your right to grow and be perceived as fully blossomed as you were intended."



Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2019 we were able to convert used cartridges into almost \$500 of office supplies! Drop off your cartridges in the cabinet in the outer vestibule of the Parish House office. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!

Shopping and Amazon Smile:

Are you shopping on Amazon? Please shop at smile.amazon.com and Amazon will donate 0.5% of eligible purchases to your favorite charitable organization: The Old Ship Church! —no fees, no extra cost. Simply start your shopping at smile.amazon.com to support your favorite charity.



Happy Valentine's Day from your friends at Old Ship Church!