



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679

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March 2022 Newsletter

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Deadline for April newsletter: Tuesday, March. 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, March 6

"Radical Welcoming" is the theme for a Social Justice Sunday led by our wonderful youth and others. What would it take for Old Ship to be truly "radically welcoming" to everyone, particular when it comes to gender, as well as in every other way. Yes, we are welcoming... but are we as welcoming as we think we are or as we could be? Members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee and Youth Group together will speak on LGBTQIA+ and Radical Welcoming.



The February Outreach Offering will help to fund this spring's Youth Group service/learning trip. See the Social Justice Council article below for details.

Sunday, March 13

As we mark the second year since the coronavirus so suddenly (as it seemed) brought us to our lock-down knees, Ken's sermon will be "What, After All, is Normal?" Would we want to go back to the "old" normal? Will there ever be a "new" normal? Or will the ground always be shifting beneath our feet? (And

has it ever been so and we've just pretended otherwise?)

Maybe more questions than answers; send Ken an email or give him a call with your thoughts and feelings about all this as we mark this moment.

Sunday, March 20

Ken writes: "Our Place in the Scheme of Things" is a sermon I preached a number of years ago; but it feels like one of my touchstone sermons and worth repeating during these concluding months of my ministry among you. What *is* going on here – in this expanding universe birthed by the so-called "Big Bang" or "Great Radiance," as some have called it? Why does how we understand "our place in the scheme of things" matter?

Sunday, March 27

"Can't We All Get Along?" will be Ken's sermon.

Old Ship member Michael Jordan was the high bidder on a sermon topic at Merrie Market's silent auction. He, like Ken, is also a graduate of the Quaker-founded Haverford College. His question for Ken and for us is: Can an understanding of the Quaker practice of consensus help us – at Old Ship, in our nation, and in the world – in some way?

DONORS FOR SUNDAY FLOWERS

Interested in being a donor for our Sunday flowers? **April 24 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](mailto:Sharon.Prehn@oldship.org) (781-925-0101).



from the minister's desk

Musing

I concluded my sermon this past Sunday ("God by Whatever Name") more or less this way:

Why might any of this matter, particularly with Ukraine and so much else in our minds and hearts these days... or does it matter – this talk of God, this question of whether there is something of worth suggested in syllables such as: "God/Goddess/Brahman/Ram/ Tao/Great Spirit"?



Wouldn't we do better, in the spirit of the Buddha and Confucius, to put such questions aside and turn our attention simply to waking up here and now, and to relieving suffering and seeking justice? First things first and all that? Maybe.

And yet... doesn't the experience of breathing into the mystery of cosmic order, breathing into the miracle of beauty, breathing into the spirit of goodness, breathing into love and kindness, breathing into wonder (God by whatever name or no name at all) ground us and fuel us for the work at hand... from the personal to the social and political?

We are indeed living in a particularly fraught and dangerous time in the world and on the planet we share. We may not individually feel we can do much of anything in relation to the terrible suffering right now in Ukraine... or in so many other places on the planet. But because we can't do everything, we of course ought not shirk from doing something, whatever small thing we can do.

And aren't we better able to relieve suffering and seek justice and peace if we align ourselves with cosmic order, with the Tao, with God as Truth, Beauty, Goodness? In this world of what surely feels like too much suffering and meanness and cruelty and ugliness, doesn't such alignment or grounding help us better to *live* – each of us and all of us as part of this experiment of human life on earth – to live at least *toward* lives of truth, beauty, goodness, and love, in service of the flourishing of all life?

My answer is “Yes!”

May we, then,...with every breath right to our last find ourselves uttering and living as best we can words of truth, beauty, goodness, love... God by whatever name, of many names, or beyond names....

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

p.s. If you'd like to contribute to relief in one form or another for the Ukrainian people, you might, as we did, find this resource from NPR helpful in deciding where to give:
<https://www.npr.org/2022/02/25/1082992947/ukraine-support-help>

Old Ship Board of Trustees March newsletter

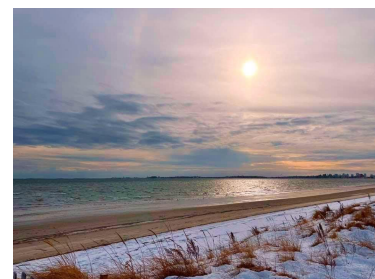
Greetings,

As spring approaches, the Board is busy managing several important transitions for Old Ship, and the 2022 New Horizons pledge campaign is underway.

Please make your pledge if you have not already done so. In this upcoming year of many changes at Old Ship, your continuing financial support is crucial.

The Board of Trustees Search Committee is in the process of completing the UUA application for the Interim Minister. This involves providing written information about Old Ship and its history as well as current state. We are working to complete the application for submission in April.

The Parish House Project Team has been working together with our new realtor to prepare the Parish House property for showing. Thank you to the Old Ship volunteers who have assisted in the decluttering process.



The RE Committee is reviewing the Interim RE consultant's report and determining our steps in hiring an RE Director for next year.

It's all good work involving adaptation and change. We are grateful for all your support.

During these transitions, we are committed to transparency and open communication. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any member of the Board with questions or concerns.

Happy spring and new horizons,
Ginny Perelson (she/her/hers)
President, Board of Trustees
gperelson@gmail.com

Among Us

We extend our deep sympathy to Claire and Dave Petrie; Claire's mother, Vivian Dillon, 96, died peacefully Sunday in her home on Long Island. Both Claire and Dave were by her side. A home vigil is being held.



The memorial service for Edith Larson has been scheduled for Saturday, March 12 in our Old Ship Meeting House at 2:00 p.m.; it will also be available on [Zoom](#). We send our continued deep sympathy to Cal and to all of Edith and Cal's family.

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,

February always seems to go so fast; here we are looking ahead to March and beyond. As Covid cases continue to trend downward, I'm happy to say we are bringing back the full choir to our Sunday morning services beginning on Sunday March 6, just in time for the youth-led "Radical Welcoming" service! The precautions currently in place for the choir remain the same: all choir participants must be vaccinated, masked, and distanced. I'm looking forward to a spring of wonderful music, so I hope to see you at our upcoming Sunday services whether in-person or online.



Musically Yours,
Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

Elizabeth Torrey

This month's excerpt is from Naomi Shihab Nye's poem "Pine Cones":



"we will survive
hold a little beauty during difficulties..."

What things of beauty do you hold during difficulties?

Responses are welcome (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com).

Children's Religious 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

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



Your Religious Education Committee submits an activity & planning report to the Board of Trustees monthly. If you'd like a copy of them, please reach out to [Maureen Butler](#) (RE Board Liaison)

By way of an update and inspiration, here is some content pulled from the first half of this church year

- Christmas pageant/ tableau in December. A multigenerational participation opportunity and also hybrid- in person and zoom. Thank you to all who helped- and set up everything- the week before and on Sunday too. Thank you Piper and Cierra- our fine 2021 Joseph and Mary.
- Gingerbread Making- Saturday Evening December 12th- it was a hit, well attended, fun had by all.
- Special Events- New Year Fire Jumping- Postponed when January 2nd Worship went on-line only. Was held on 1/23
- The COA (Coming of Age) service is scheduled for June 5th
- Planning ahead- will have Pride Day again in June- hoping to create the same multi age, multi-faceted event (food, advocacy, music, community, activity (tie dye, sign making, etc.) . Goal this year- promote event earlier with other UU churches and youth groups in area. – We should Save the Date! ASAP. Any ideas, requests, offers of participation from BoT – speak now! (Later is ok too).
- Welcoming Committee Co chairs, Mary and Abby joined the youth group recently re: committee revitalization, updates on activities, UUA expectations, opportunities at OS, etc. Youth will likely participate in worship service in March. Our youth are generally an excellent resource to this welcoming work - their knowledge, awareness, empathy, wisdom around this area of welcome (among others) eclipses many. We will stay in contact/ engaged with the Welcoming Committee.
- One RE Comm. volunteer holds role of “DRE of the day” each Sunday
- No interest to date coming in for the Part Time position, perhaps reach out again Jan 1 – for position for rest year.

- Service Trip – it's an ON year. Would love to still pull an opportunity out for this. ? April Vacation? At least a long weekend, ½ week... Stay Tuned. Will discuss.
- We got confirmed to be participants for a City Reach weekend in April for The Common Cathedral Ministry to lean about, engage with, support people who are homeless or home insecure in Boston. Modified event- some virtual and some in person this year. This can also be a multi-generational event (MGO)
- Father Bills sandwich making, monthly, 4th weekend for all ages – going well- any adults who want to join in are welcome!
- Special events: Pancakes and Pajamas (and movie) Sunday after Merrie Market- Watched A Year without a Santa Claus. No pancakes – but take home cookies. THIS year we actually saw the show- last year we did it outside, the screen was too well lit and we all still sat there and listened together happily anyway. It's quite beautiful when you can actually see it.
- Youth group plans: Bikes not Bombs bike collection event Nov 7 th- big success!
- Coming of Age/ COA (grade 8, 9, 10) – 4 youth (Teachers- Janet and Colin). Mentors have been selected and oriented. Susan C, Heather N, Corey FM, Kate D . It's a dream team. Very meaningful class for all.
- Phase 1 of Interim work with Deb W wrapping up soon. Watch for proposal for Phase 2- Feb – May. Implementation of various ideas/ strategies to maximize family ministry in spring, engage wider community in awareness of Old Ship, create special events, partner/ collaborate with regional churches

Stay tuned, as we move through winter and into spring. Please reach out to any committee members if you'd like to help with this ministry, volunteer, offer a talent or share an interest with our children/youth.

Committee: [Kate Doyle](#), [Susan Carillo](#), [Lauren Gadot-Stelljes](#), [Cierra West](#)



Interfaith Passover Seder
 Sunday, March 13, 3:00 PM Zoom
(see the poster for the Zoom link)

Sponsored by the Hingham Hull
 Religious Leaders Association
 Hosted by Congregation Sha'aray Shalom



Our own Ken Read-Brown will be among the religious leaders participating in the Seder.

Special Command Performance Luosha Fang

Sunday, March 27, 4:00 PM

The Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and the Old Ship Church will host a Special Command Performance by renowned violinist and violist, Luosha Fang. More information and tickets may be found online at atlanticsymphony.org or call ASO at 781-331-3600.



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](#).

Spring (Vernal) Equinox Poetry Circle

Welcome to the 26th year of Crossing Time Poetry Circles at old Ship; Spring officially begins on Sunday the 20th at 11:30 AM EDT. We will come together on [Zoom](#) to welcome the coming of spring on Saturday, March 19th at 7 PM. Bring a favorite spring poem, or one that speaks about renewal, or one that inspires you or comforts you, or one that makes you laugh out loud.

All are welcome, with or without a poem. Perhaps you will hear something sustaining to take home with you. Questions? [Elizabeth Torrey](#) (781-749-0543)

"Ere spring guests arrive
We light the
supper candles
each from shining each."

Yosa Buson (1716-1784, Haiku master)

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 March 13th – 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 meetings will be on Sunday, March 6 and again on Sunday, March 27. 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, March 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, March 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.

Fiber Funship

On Mondays at 1:30 PM, "Fiber Funship," the Old Ship Crafters, will meet in the parlor of the Parish House. All crafters are welcome!

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

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



March's Special Plate Collection is for the Old Ship Youth Group's Service Trip(s) — Every other year, we designate one special collection to support the Youth Group's service trip. As you can imagine, COVID has made the planning for such a trip more challenging. However, the Youth Group *will* be making a service trip this year. It may be a weekend trip instead of a full week. Additionally, there is an overnight trip planned with Common Cathedral in Boston. Despite the uncertainty over exactly what form the Youth Group's service trip or trips will take this place, the SJC believes we should financially support whatever the group ends up being able to do. So, this month, you are invited to support our youth as they learn more about serving others and living our Unitarian Universalist values in the world. 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 Youth Group Service Trip designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Special Plate Collections Thank You — We received the following note of thanks from Kenzie Blackwell, who is the coordinator of the Free. Program from St; John's. She wrote, "I am so thankful for the generous donation from your congregation!! The money you provided will support 343 months of support, or 28 of our neighbors for a full year. This is a HUGE boost for Free. and will enable us to continue to do this necessary work in our community."

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day on April 12— Join UU Mass Action for the annual UU Advocacy Day at the Massachusetts State House. At this annual event, UUs from across the state come together to meet with legislators about UU Mass Action's key areas of Immigrant Justice, Climate & Environmental Justice, Economic Justice, Indigenous Justice and Decarceration & Ending Solitary Confinement. There is also an advocacy day training meeting on March 2nd. To register or to learn more about these events, go to [Upcoming Events — Unitarian Universalist Mass Action \(uumassaction.org\)](https://uumassaction.org).

Hingham Food Pantry — We are collecting food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry. 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).* The food pantry only accepts non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food. Although all donations are appreciated, the following items are among the most needed at any time: beef stew, hearty soups, small bags of granulated sugar, cookies, crackers, and 64 oz. bottles of juices. Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043. Thanks to Kate Philbin for delivering our donations to the food pantry.

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will next meet on Sunday, March 20, on Zoom, at 7 p.m. We will be discussing pages 249-480 of *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, created by Nikole Hannah-Jones. Patti Smith will be leading our discussion of this important book. For more information or if you have questions, contact [Davalene Cooper](mailto:Davalene.Cooper@gmail.com). 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](https://zoom.us/j/93736639621?pwd=STBhdmU0OVBMMeTVnZnBkUXhzU0N1Zz09) for the March meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/93736639621?pwd=STBhdmU0OVBMMeTVnZnBkUXhzU0N1Zz09>.

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!

Special Virtual UUSC Justice Sunday 2022 — Looking for some hope and some grounding in these chaotic times? There is a special virtual UUSC Sunday worship service guided by the Reverends Jacqueline Brett, Ned Wight, and Aisha Ansano available on the UUSC website. Together, they journey around the world, grounded in courage and gathered in justice, to hear from our UUSC partners. This is a moving service of words and music and will inspire you to continue your work for justice. You may view the service at [UUSC Sunday - Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#)

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](#).

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.

Welcoming Congregation Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 10th 7:00 pm Parlor & Zoom

Radical Welcoming - it was part of the focus in March 6th Sunday service.

Now what?

Are we a Radical Welcoming congregation?

Should it make a difference for hiring a RE Director, Interim Minister or new Minister?

If so, how?

If not, why not?

If you have questions, please email [Abby](#).

To [Join Zoom Meeting](#)



Gender Spectrum presents "Introduction to Gender" webinar. Mon March 14th 7:00 PM -9:00 PM

Gender Spectrum is one of the leading organizations working with families non-binary and transgender children.



An introductory webinar on gender. Open to anyone looking to learn more about gender with a focus on supporting parents and caregivers with a gender expansive person in your life.

Parents, extended family members, youth themselves, teachers, mental health providers and anyone else are welcome to join!

We will be covering topics included but not limited too: what is gender, what do terms such as transgender and non-binary even mean, how do I support someone in my life navigating gender, what about pronouns and gender dysphoria? We encourage you to bring your own questions as well!

This webinar will be presented by Gender Spectrum staff members, Jenna Redmond and Naomi Cruz. Sign up at <https://www.tfaforms.com/4958271>



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, March 1, 7:00 p.m. Parlor
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, March 3, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor Email [Ginny](#) for the Zoom Link
- **Parish House Management Meeting**, Monday, March 7 (every Monday) 5:00 p.m. Email [Nina](#) for the Zoom Link
- **Committee on Ministry** - Tuesday, March 8, 5:00 p.m. Zoom
- **Welcoming Congregation Committee for the 21st Century** - Thursday, March 10, 7:00 p.m. Nursery & Zoom
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday, March 22, 1:30 p.m. Zoom/Parlor



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 St. Patrick's Day from
your friends at Old Ship Church!

