



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
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May 2021 Newsletter

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Deadline for June newsletter: Friday, May 21

Worship in May

Click here to join worship on Zoom @ 10:25 a.m. on
Sundays!

Sunday, May 2

Ken's sermon title, "Lift Every Voice," comes from the poem and hymn of that title by James Weldon Johnson. The sermon will in part serve as introduction to this year's Spring Poetry class led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken, and will at the same time be asking how we can begin to transcend the many ways we are currently polarized in our nation, in the world, in our lives.



Sunday, May 9 — Mother's Day Music Sunday

For many year's we have celebrated Mother's Day with Music Sunday. Though we will still be worshipping on Zoom, we are able to continue this Old Ship tradition with a service of readings, music, and brief reflections from Ken, all specially designed for the day and highlighting the place the poetry has in our lives and in our music.

Sunday, May 16 — Annual Meeting

Ken's sermon will be: "The Normal Desire for Normal." As we emerge from the extreme pandemic restrictions, we naturally enough yearn for what we might term "ordinary" or "normal" life. But is there something deeper than either normal or ordinary that represents our true yearning?

Following the service Old Ship's Board of Trustees will convene our Annual Meeting. All are invited, but only "voting members" may vote on the budget, new officers, and other items. A "voting member" is, according to our bylaws, someone who has signed our Membership Book and has made a recorded financial contribution during the past year (or received a waiver of the contribution requirement from the Deacons).

Sunday, May 23

"Mind and Heart" is the theme for this year's "Religious Growth and Learning Sunday," which will include reflections from both Ken and Chloe. Our service will also include recognition of this year's wonderful Old Ship high school seniors.

Sunday, May 30

"The Mystic Chords of Memory" was a phrase used by Lincoln in his first inaugural address, and will serve as the title of Ken's sermon this Memorial Day Sunday. The context for Lincoln's words was of course the Civil War; this year, though we always have in mind and heart the lives of those lost on the battlefields, we naturally enough also have in mind and heart those lost to Covid-19. Can "the mystic chords of memory" help us through our grief and at the same time help us heed what Lincoln named the "better angels of our nature"?

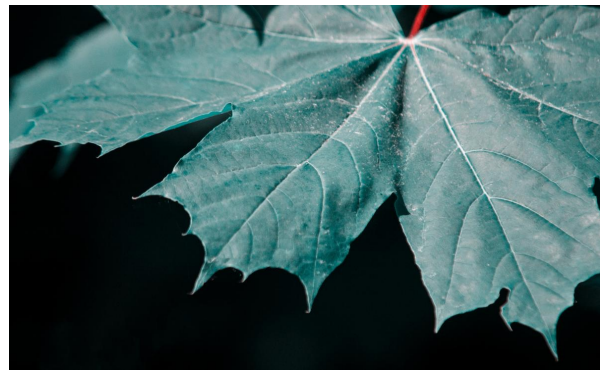
Saturday afternoon outdoor service! - Watch our weekly update emails for notice of a Saturday afternoon outdoor worship service as the weather warms.

A reminder that past worship services are available for viewing on our [Old Ship Church YouTube](#) site.

Colin McGinnis has been our tech wizard for Sunday services, expertly videoing and uploading each service. If you'd like to volunteer to learn the tech ropes to help out in the future, email [Ken Read-Brown](#).

from the minister's desk **Musing**

A year ago, what would we have thought if someone had told us that most church activities – worship, classes, meetings – would still be virtual in May of 2021? Might have been a disheartening if not depressing thought.



Yet here we are, having more than survived as a church community. We in fact learned to thrive, using technology with which many of us had little or no experience at the beginning of 2020. As for me, if I'd heard of "Zoom" before last March, it was only with the vaguest sense of what it was. And then there's that phrase I don't believe I had ever uttered, yet have now said – gently – more times than I can count: "You're still on mute..."

Well, just as the maple trees outside my study window have been gradually leafing during the past few weeks, so are we looking towards a gradual emergence from "virtual" towards "live" in just about every dimension of our lives, including here at Old Ship. We don't yet have a schedule at Old Ship for when and just how to move from virtual to "hybrid" or "multi-platform" ministry, but we're working on it. One thing we do know is that even as we begin meeting in person, we will also continue to use Zoom, YouTube, and whatever other technologies come along to more fully welcome everyone: including

people from afar or who for whatever reason are unable to attend worship or a meeting or a class in person. And this is a good thing to be sure!

To conclude for now, here's a thought from Thoreau that seems to me to be pretty relevant to our human experience of 2020-2021:

"Not till we are lost, in other words, not till we have lost the world, do we begin to find ourselves, and realize where we are and the infinite extent of our relations."

Peace and blessings,
Ken
cell: 781-635-2060
oldshipkrb@gmail.com

Message from Janet Asnes President, Board of Trustees



*believe in the right of
conscience and the
democratic process*

At this writing, we are still a few days away from the end of our annual pledge campaign. The goal is in reach and it looks as if we may be on target to receive a higher pledge dollar amount than in recent years. That is fantastic, and I am so grateful to all who have pledged. My thanks also goes out to the Annual Pledge campaign team of Diane Elliott, Elizabeth Murry, Ginny Pereleson, Dave Petrie and Nina Wellford, with a special shout out

to Diane, Elizabeth and Dave who have never been on a pledge committee before. In a year when many things are unpredictable, these three agreed to try something new in their support for Old Ship. They said "yes" and all of us are benefiting.

There are still a few days left to get your pledge in for FY 2021-2022.
To submit your pledge online please click [HERE](#) .

Save the date: May 16th is our Annual Meeting! This is an important day in our church calendar at which we come together as a congregation to listen to the reports of our staff and committees and vote on our operational budget for next year. Please join us as we practice our 5th Principle.

My husband and I are fully vaccinated and decided to take a few days off. Keeping safety in mind, we chose to stay in Massachusetts and enjoy a few days in the Berkshires. Our intentions were to take advantage of the beautiful mountains and hike. It rained. A lot. Although we didn't get as much time hiking as we would have liked, we did have a wonderful time exploring a part of the state we don't spend much time in. As Massachusetts natives, we are familiar with the history of our state. The rain afforded us the opportunity to delve deeper into the history of the towns we were visiting, reminding us that even the things that we are most familiar with can still offer insight. Old Ship is like that for me. I've been attending since 2002 and actively involved for most of these years. This will be the 6th operational budget I have helped prepare as a member of the Board of Trustees and, I believe, the 17th Annual Meeting I

have attended. I am familiar with how we do things at Old Ship. Yet, the discussions and debates we have had this year as an entire congregation and in smaller group work, still inspire me. Putting together a budget - in effect a declaration of what we value - reminds us from where we come and guides us to where we want to be. We are cherishing our values and chartering our future.

Janet Asnes, President, Board of Trustees

Old Ship Transitions Committee

Old Ship has formed a committee to help shape the transitions the congregation will make as the COVID pandemic lessens.



The committee believes its task is “Re-boarding Old Ship”.

Joining the committee are people from the congregation, from the Board of Trustees, and from the Old Ship staff.

Committee members are [Chloë Briedé](#), [Ralph Brown](#), [Roy Harris](#), [Dana Kintigh](#), [Catherine Mayes](#), [Diane Morrison](#), [Christopher Nickelson-Mann](#) and [Ken Read-Brown](#). Co-chairs are Ralph and Catherine.

The committee has met twice to identify and discuss issues to be considered as the congregation begins to consider what to do, in a post-pandemic world, when it comes to worship and other gatherings for classes and meetings.

Likely to occur is a service outside the Meeting House, on a Saturday in warmer weather.

The committee also wants to obtain consultants who can advise how to provide suitable ventilation in the Meeting House.

No decision has been made about when to resume services inside the Meeting House. Following custom, it is expected that lay-led services will take place this summer, though they will be virtual via Zoom.

The committee envisions being an on-going resource to the congregation and the Board of Trustees providing information and suggestions about managing the transitions.

Committee members invite Old Shippers to contact them with questions, concerns and suggestions.

Among Us

We extend deep sympathy to Nigel Harvey and his family. As shared in earlier emails, Nigel's wife Angela died earlier in April. She had been living



with cancer. Nigel is currently in the hospital, related to his own health issues. A service for Angela has not yet been planned.

We extend deep sympathy to Jane Malme and her family, including son Bob and daughter Karen (Mal) and her wife Meg. As we shared earlier this week, Chuck died on April 24 at Rose Court, the nursing home at Linden Ponds, where he and Jane have been living for several years. A service for Chuck has not yet been planned.

Happy Birthday Second Parish in Hingham!

Have you seen, as you drive along Main Street, an exuberant sign across the front of Second Parish Church announcing its 275th anniversary? What they are actually celebrating, you should know, is their escape from the Old Ship Church (then just known officially as First Parish)!



Back in Puritan days you couldn't just build a church without a by-your-leave. First, the Legislature (The Great and General Court in Massachusetts) had to set up a separate precinct in which only one church could be established, supported by taxes in the precinct, and only one minister could be authorized to preach there.

Let's pretend that it's 275 years ago. Until now there has been one precinct and one church in Hingham - but things have changed. We've just asked a man from Glad Tidings Plain (towards the south end of Hingham) what has been going on during the last few years. He's happy to talk about it:

"Well, he says, back in the winter of 1727, our man Jonathon Farrow tried to talk the First Parish church fathers into paying for a preacher for us. It's too far to walk in the winter, he let them know, and there's no seats when you get there. Of course they said no, but he must have shaken them up some because just three years later they built a 14-foot addition on the northeast side.

"That was supposed to satisfy us, I guess. It didn't. In 1738 we went in to the Legislature to get them to set us off as a precinct, with the dividing line at Cold Corner. You'd think the First Parish was mortally wounded. All they could think of was losing their tax base. We went ahead anyway. Instead of waiting around for a "No!", Theophilus Cushing gave some land for a meetinghouse, and he and Solomon Loring bought all the materials, and fourteen years after the last "No!", in June of 1742, we had a meetinghouse!

"First Parish, of course, wouldn't pay for a minister, so we all argued in front of the Legislature. And they came down and looked it over, and talked, and at the end of all the talking, we won! We're a precinct! We got ourselves a good

young minister named Daniel Shute, and we invited our old minister, Ebenezer Gay, to attend the ordination. His parish wouldn't let him come, but he spoke to us anyway by letter."

Beloved Brethren,

I believe it seems hard to you to be refused what you have asked of your mother church, whose breasts you have sucked. But you know it has been a day of temptation and provocation in the town. And angry resentments (whether just or unjust) are not wont soon to be laid aside after the strife between contending parties is at an end, and the conquered, when they submit, are not presently so loving friends as afterwards they prove. If you patiently and silently pass over the conduct of the church toward you, I hope there will be a comfortable harmony of affection between you and us...

I wish you God's presence in the house you have erected for divine worship at all times and especially on the morrow at the ordination of a pastor over you, and I pray God to make him a great blessing to you and your children.

*From your sincere and affectionate friend and late unworthy Pastor,
E. Gay*

So here we are. The years have come full circle. The Second Parish minister, Stephanie Shute Kelsch, is the direct descendant of Daniel Shute. At our First Parish (Old Ship Church), Peter Hobart's direct descendant, Kenneth Read-Brown, has been our loved and faithful minister for 34 years, a term that sounds more like that of his spirited ancestor.

And as old Ebenezer predicted, the causes of strife are forgotten and there is now "a comfortable harmony of affection" between us. Three cheers for Second Parish Church!!!

Fan Leonard

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](#)

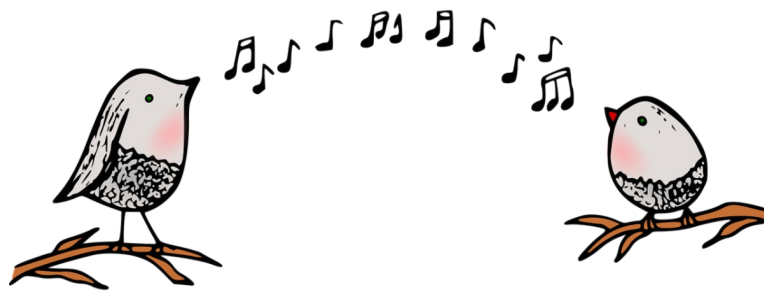
[Catherine Mayes](#)

[Carol Valentine](#)

[Joan Wilson](#)

[Ken Read-Brown](#)





Music Notes

Dear Old Ship,

Join us for Music Sunday on May 9th! The musical choices this year are inspired by and related to poetry. We will hear the words of great poets such as Langston Hughes, Emily Dickinson, and several others -- all sung by our wonderful vocal soloists.

As we draw closer to the end of the church year, I want to say thank you to the Old Ship community for your continuing support and encouragement. Directing the music this year has been quite a learning experience, but what else is life for but to learn and grow? I appreciate your openness to new and new-to-you music; I appreciate your kindness, honesty, and patience; and I appreciate the warm comments and discussions about the music we all share together, whether it's through a screen or in person. I look forward to the next two months and the music to come. What a beautifully musical community we have here at Old Ship!

Musically Yours,
Christopher

Educating Hearts and Minds

Greetings from the Children's Religious Education Program!

We have had a great April in the RE program. We started off the month with our Passover Seder. We had a small group of children, youth, and adults in attendance. Ken and I told a short version of the Passover story over Zoom with help from participants. It was a relaxing, educational experience. We also celebrated Easter morning with children, youth and parents in front of the Parish House. We had 17 people attend a masked gathering. As a group, we went on a small Easter egg hunt and planted flower seeds. The youth group received their self-designed sweatshirts on Easter and then packaged them up for their peers.

We also started the Transgender Inclusion workshop in April. We have approximately 15 people participating in the group. The group members bring an interest in LGBT+ issues and rights and a genuine openness to learning more. As an Interim DRE, I am proud to be doing work that increases welcome in our congregation, especially for our youth.

The Interim RE Team would love to hear your feedback on RE at Old Ship. We have launched a survey, and we would love for you to take approximately 10 minutes to fill it out. It will inform our work as we move forward. Please find the link below!

Sending blessings,
Chloë



Planting seeds and preparing for the Easter Egg Hunt!



On the hunt!



Social distancing, eating candy, and chatting after the hunt.



Easter seeds growing at the Gadot's.



The youth group wrapped up sweatshirts with notes for members we haven't seen in a while.



Contact [Chloë](#) with questions.

Children's Religious Education

This Month

Pride Planning Meeting — Do you love Old Ship Pride? Want to help the youth group with planning? We are meeting Tuesday, May 4 at 7:30pm on Zoom. [Here is the link to join.](#)

Senior Recognition — We will be honoring our seniors in the service on May 23. We are so proud of all your accomplishments! Parents and youth, please keep an eye on your email for more details about the service and a special lunch with Ken.

Ongoing Offerings

Storytime with Debbie — Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. join Debbie Squires-Lee for storytime and discussion on Zoom. This is open to children and youth of all ages, and content is geared towards grades K–4. For the Zoom link, please email [Debbie Squires-Lee](#).

Youth Group — Typically gathers every Sunday afternoon in front of the Meeting House or on Zoom. We do a check-in. We share stuff we did during the week. We make plans and discuss current events. We advocate for a more just world. Please join us! Grades 8–12 are welcome. Contact [Chloë](#) or [Maureen Butler](#) for more information.

We Want Your Feedback: Religious Education Survey

The Interim Religious Education Team would love your feedback on the RE program. This survey is for everyone at Old Ship! **The deadline to fill it out is Sunday, May 23.** Click the button below to participate. It will take about 10 minutes to complete.



[Click here to take the survey!](#)

Life Learning on Zoom!

Spring Poetry: "Lift Every Voice"

**Five Sessions, Wednesdays,
May 5 – June 2, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.**

led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown.

Our annual spring poetry class will focus on the poetry of African Americans. We will follow a chronological path, beginning with Phillis Wheatley (1753-1784). For more info and to sign up, contact



Ongoing Offerings

The 2020-2021 Life Learning brochure is available by clicking [here](#).

Bodhisattva Study Group —

Gathers each Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m. On the first and third Sundays, Ken Read-Brown leads us in a twenty minute meditation, then we read aloud (this year from *Welcoming the Unwelcome* by the American Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron), then we talk, concluding by 9:45. The other weeks will include meditation and conversation facilitated by members of the group. All are welcome. For questions and for the Zoom links, email [Ken Read-Brown](#).

Men's Breakfast — Gathers on the *second Sunday* morning of each month at 8:30 a.m. for sharing and conversation. The next gathering will be May 9. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for the Zoom link.

Women's Breakfast and Conversation — Meets on the *fourth Sunday* morning of each month. We will meet on May 23 from 8:30 a.m.—10:15 a.m. Open to all the women of the church. We gather to share our lives and enjoy one another's company. Conversations are confidential and, again, all are welcome! [Click here to join](#).

Sacred Texts Meditation Group — Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 4:00 p.m. We sit for about ten minutes meditation, then read a chapter from the *Tao Te Ching*, then we talk, concluding at about 5:15. All are welcome. For the Zoom link, email [Ken Read-Brown](#).

Ceilidh! — Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. So our next monthly

Sacred Texts Meditation Group Ken Read-Brown
Second and fourth Thursday afternoons, 4:00 – 5:30 p.m.
Each gathering includes time for meditation and conversation based on ancient scriptures. We are currently reading the *Tao Te Ching*, and also selections from an anthology of sacred texts titled *God Makes the Rivers to Flow*, ed. Eknath Easwaran. Newcomers are warmly welcome. For information, and the Zoom link, contact Ken.

HAVE AN IDEA?
Have an idea for a class or workshop you'd like to see or lead at Old Ship? Contact the office (781-749-1579; office@oldshipchurch.org) or a member of the Life Learning Committee, and we will help you make it happen! Committee members are Ralph Brown, Rich Elliott, Claire Petrie, Elizabeth Torrey, and Ken Read-Brown.

How to contact leaders and committee members

Ralph Brown	781-305-7282	ralph_o_brown@gmail.com
Ivy Buttenworth	781-248-3190	ivy_butter@yahoo.com
Daviane Cooper	781-749-0790	davianecooper@verizon.net
Diane Elliott	781-749-2248	dianeelliott@gmail.com
Janice McPhillips	781-740-8782	jbmcp@psd@gmail.com
Ken Read-Brown	781-749-1579	oldshipkd@gmail.com
Claire Petrie	617-472-8420	cdpetrie@aol.com
Lisa Sawyer	781-703-3065	lsawyer49@gmail.com
Elizabeth Torrey	781-749-0543	elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com
Joan Wilson	617-847-4864	joanew@verizon.net

Life Learning at Old Ship
2020 – 2021

In harmony with Unitarian Universalist principles and sources of inspiration, learning opportunities at Old Ship serve our community by encouraging spiritual growth and the free and responsible search for truth and meaning.

Gatherings are via Zoom unless otherwise noted. Older youth may find many of these programs of interest and are encouraged and welcome to join. We ask participants to contribute \$35 for the first course they attend each year (aiding scale according to need). There is no fee for drop-in ongoing groups, or if otherwise noted. Watch the newsletter and website for changes. Contact information for course leaders is on last page.

AUTUMN

Climate Change Solutions Ken Read-Brown, Lisa Sawyer
Four Wednesdays, Sept. 23 – Oct. 14, 7:00 p.m.

We'll use the book *Drawdown: The Most Comprehensive Plan Ever Proposed to Reverse Global Warming* (ed. by Paul Hawken) to explore the wealth of strategies and solutions to address climate change, including energy use, agricultural practices, land use, building efficiency, and more. To sign up and get the Zoom link, contact Ken.

Ecclesiastes and the Meaning of Life Ken Read-Brown
Four Wednesdays, Oct. 21 – Nov. 11, 7:00 p.m.

The Biblical book of Ecclesiastes has seemed to some to be almost heretical, given the writer's expressions of doubt and discouragement; to others it has been a source of profound life wisdom. Background reading for those interested includes *When All You've Ever Wanted Isn't Enough*, by Harold Kushner. To sign up and get the Zoom link, contact Ken.

So You Want to Meditate Ken Read-Brown
Saturdays, Oct. 24, 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Whether you are a long time meditator or wish to begin, this gathering will offer some basic instruction in mindfulness meditation and in Eknath Easwaran's passage meditation. There will be time for questions and conversation, and time to meditate. For the Zoom link, contact Ken.

song/poem circle will be gathering on Zoom Tuesday evening, May 4, at 7:00 p.m. Welcome approaching spring with music and poetry. Email [Ken](#) if you have questions about the ceilidh, or for the Zoom link to attend.



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 [Chloë](#) in the office.

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

Upcoming Committee Meetings on Zoom

Board of Trustees — Thursday, April 29, 7 p.m.; Thursday, June 3, 7 p.m.

Pride Planning Meeting — Tuesday, May 4, 7:30 p.m.

Life Learning Committee — Friday, May 7, 4:30 p.m.

Pastoral Care Leadership Team — Tuesday, May 11, 1 p.m.

Committee on Ministry — Tuesday, May 18, 7 p.m.

Transition Team — Thursday, May 29, 4 p.m.

Deacons — TBD

Interim Religious Education Team — TBD

Worship and Music Committee — TBD

Contact [Chloë](#) for links to these meetings.

Serving Others

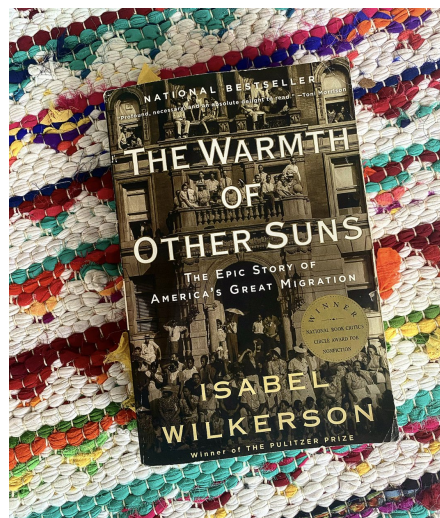
News from the Social Justice Council

The next SJC Meeting will be in late summer. All are welcome to join us in supporting social justice service and action at Old Ship. Please contact [Davalene Cooper](#) if you are not currently a member of the SJC and would like to be informed of the time and date for the next meeting.

Proposed New Focus for Social Justice

Efforts at Old Ship — At our Annual Meeting

on May 16, 2021, the SJC will be recommending that the congregation decide whether the major focus of our social justice work at Old Ship for the next three years will be centered around issues of racism, white supremacy, and climate change. This recommendation comes from our forum last fall, as well as other conversations this past year with the congregation, as to what our social justice focus should be for the next three years. If the congregation votes in favor of



this focus, the SJC will then assist our Old Ship community in exploring these issues in the context of our personal lives, or institutional life at Old Ship, and in our communities more generally. Our goal will be to engage in and promote actions that will be consistent with creating a more beloved community for all peoples and for caring for the Earth. Please see our report in the soon to be shared Annual Report book for more discussion of this issue. Our SJC Annual Report is also posted on the Old Ship website at [sjc-annual-report-2020-21.pdf \(oldshipchurch.org\)](https://oldshipchurch.org/sjc-annual-report-2020-21.pdf).

Special Plate Collection for May: Hingham Unity Council— We have decided to support the Hingham Unity Council for our last special plate collection of the church year. Hingham Unity Council (HUC) is a non-partisan group started by members of the Hingham community in fall 2019. The group focuses on developing programming to address core issues affecting Hingham, such as racial diversity, equity and inclusion, socioeconomic disparities and issues related to LGBTQIA+. This group is engaged in efforts supportive of our congregation's interest in anti-racism and white supremacy. You can learn more about the group at [Hingham Unity Council | Fostering a more diverse and inclusive community](#).

HUC use its donations to undertake the following types of activities and events: drive in movies with diverse cast/leading roles played by BIPOC actors (May will feature "42" with Chadwick Bozeman), developing a scholarship program for METCO students, continuation of the "Talk" series with discussions from BIPOC community members (one is planned for May on the experience of Asian-Americans in Hingham), fundraising/assistance for affordable housing initiatives in town, and providing candidate events focusing on racial and social justice issues. Finally, HUC is starting to plan with other towns in the South Shore Unity Council cultural events for all of the communities to enjoy. Discussions include the possibility of a pride event in June, a Loving Day and Juneteenth event, and a diverse South Shore arts festival. Whether these events take place this year will be dependent upon COVID restrictions. This past year, HUC provided blankets for METCO students who were traveling to Hingham on buses with the windows open due to COVID concerns.

You may make your donation [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to HUC or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with HUC designated on the memo line.

We also want to thank everyone for their support of our March special place collection. We raised \$1182.93 for the Holly Hill Farm Programs that raise fresh produce for food pantries on the South Shore. We will report on the donations to our April special plate recipient, SOLA, the leadership school for girls in Afghanistan, once we have closed out the donation period. We are holding SOLA, its students, and its staff, in our hearts and prayers as the situation in Afghanistan becomes increasingly fraught with danger, especially for women and girls.

Hingham Food Pantry— The food pantry continues to collect non-perishable food items on the following dates: Monday, May 10 and 24, from 2:30-4 p.m. and Wednesday, May 12 and 26, from 12:30-2 p.m. General food items needed include cookies, crackers, granola bars, canned beef stew, canned spaghetti, tuna, pasta sauce, white rice, and hearty canned soups. Donations

also can be dropped off at Stop and Shop (large bin located at the front of the store, near the customer service area). We also are planning to collect food in June as part of the Youth Group's Gay Pride Celebration at Old Ship. Details to follow closer to that date.

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will meet on Sunday, May 16, at 7 p.m. to discuss Isabel Wilkerson's, *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Our final meeting for the church year will be on June 13, at 7 p.m. and we will discuss Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow*. The book group will reconvene in September, meeting on the third Sunday of each month, except for December. For more information about next year, and to receive our information planning materials, contact [Davalene Cooper](#).

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.



Annual Old Ship Plant Sale

Calling all Old Shippers with gardens!

Our annual Old Ship Plant Sale is happening this spring on **Saturday May 15th from 8am to noon**. We will follow the latest regulations from the State to make this a COVID-19 safe event. The plant sale will be held outside on

the lawn in front of the Parish House and we will have a carefully controlled number of people browsing at any one time. Thank you for potting up your perennials and labeling with as much info as possible. We will need everything to be very carefully labeled so that shoppers can have as much descriptive information as possible since we will not be able to interact closely with people at the sale as has been our usual habit in the past. **Please drop off your donations on the upper part of the lawn close to the Parish House front door any time beginning Wednesday May 12th.** We need helpers for set up on Friday May 14th and on the day of the sale from 7:45 - 10 am and 10 am to about 12:30 pm. If you have any questions or need pots, please contact Janice McPhillips at jbbmcpPhillips@gmail.com or 781-249-9141. It will be great to see fellow Old Shippers and plant shoppers at this fun community building fundraiser. Thank you!

Important Parish House Reminder

Our weekday renter of the Fellowship Hall is "Launch" – a state-funded program whose mission is "to empower and encourage self-determination for individuals with disabilities by accessing work and social opportunities in a truly community-based setting." Launch is a source of very helpful income for us, but just as importantly we are pleased to be able to support their good work.

Please remember that the Fellowship Hall is exclusively for the use of

Launch — do not walk through or enter for any reason on any day (even weekends). This is more important than ever during the time of Covid-19, to help ensure the safety and health of Launch clients and staff.



**Happy Spring
from your friends at
Old Ship Church!**