

First Parish, Hingham Old Ship Church

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

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

May 2022 Newsletter

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Deadline for June newsletter: Tuesday, May 24, 2022

Worship: 10:25 a.m.

Multi-Platform:
Join us in-person in our Old
Ship Meeting House

masks optional...
but requested for singing
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, May 1

Ken writes: "On this first Sunday in May, I'm going to return to my recurring theme of 'Touchstones' – revisiting some things I've share before, and sharing some new thoughts too. Particularly these days when it comes to the question of good and evil in the world.



"What are your "touchstone" texts or poems or quotes? What touchstone wisdom do we all share here at Old Ship, including through our Unitarian Universalist faith? What touchstones will help our ancient congregation navigate the waters of transition?"

Note: Special Parish Meeting this Sunday, May 1, at 6:00 in the Meeting House and on Zoom.
(link will be sent later this week).

Sunday, May 8 – Music Sunday

Christopher will lead the choir – and the rest of us – in our annual Mother's Day tradition of Music Sunday. Ken's message will be "The Healing Grace of Music."

Sunday, May 15 – New Members Sunday

Ken's sermon as we formally welcome New Members will be "Why I Am a Unitarian Universalist." Ken writes: "How has Unitarian Universalism shaped me in my life's journey... and shaped our congregation in our shared journey?"

The Annual Meeting of our First Parish Old Ship Church will follow the service, also in the Meeting House. All are invited, though only "voting members" of the congregation may vote. (A voting member is anyone who has signed the Membership Book and who has made a recording financial contribution to the church within the twelve months prior to the posting of the warrant for the Annual Meeting - which was Tuesday, April 19.)

Sunday, May 22

"Looking Back" will be Ken's sermon this week, reflections on our thirty-five years of shared ministry at Old Ship.

During the service we will celebrate our high school seniors!

Sunday, May 29

"Looking Ahead" will be Ken's sermon, sharing his hopes and vision for the future of Old Ship. We hardly need reminding of the many transitions we face as a congregation: ministry, religious education, parish house – all still in the midst of the pandemic. What opportunities rest in the midst of this time of many transitions - a time filled with many challenges in the wider world as well.

from the minister's desk

Musing

As some English poets once sang, "You can't always get what you want... but if you try sometime, you'll find you'll get what you need."

Several years ago, some creative thinkers among

us imagined the possibility of selling our Parish House, ridding ourselves of the ever heavier weight of maintenance expenses we simply have been unable to meet... enabling us to build a new, purpose-built, "green" Parish House on land we own adjacent to the Meeting House. Well, as we all know, in the intervening years a number of proposals have come and gone, sometimes understandably leading to frustration, differences of opinion... and plain old fatigue.

But we have been blessed by dedicated Old Ship folks who have kept on in this effort, and blessed too with leadership who have kept us together along the way. So... this Sunday evening, May 1, at a Special Parish Meeting the congregation will vote on another offer which may indeed open the door to our future Parish House.

Whichever way the vote goes, we may not get exactly what we once thought we wanted; but, paraphrasing the old song, if we try... we might find we'll get what we need.

Old Ship is, you see, a wonderful congregation filled with creativity and energy and love (I say this based on a pretty good thirty-five-year sample). I have full confidence that together, we (though soon I'll mostly be a full-hearted observer) will create what we need as a foundation for the next era of Old Ship, as we continue to nourish our spirits and help to heal the world.

Peace and blessings,

Ken

cell: 781-635-2060 oldshipkrb@gmail.com

Thanks for Recent Bequests

Old Ship members who are able to do so from time to time leave generous bequests. Recently we have received such bequests from the estates of Ding Wilding-Smith and Jim Robinson. We are grateful!

thankyou

Old Ship Board of Trustees May Newsletter

I am reading "In the Interim: Strategies for Interim Ministers and Congregations," Barbara Child and Keith Kron, editors. All of the goals of interim ministry are noble but it is the final one listed that stood out to me:



"Enabling the congregation to renew its vision, strengthen its stewardship, prepare for new professional leadership, and engage its future with anticipation and zest. " p. 9

"That's us!" I said out loud. (Thankfully I was alone at the time.)

As April comes to a close, we are actively recruiting for a Director of Religious Education and an Interim Minister; we are preparing for a congregational vote on accepting an offer on the Parish House (May 1, 6:00), and preparing for Annual Meeting (May 15, 11:45) at which we will vote for our lay leadership and finalize our operational budget for next year. In all of the meetings and conversations I've been involved with surrounding these topics, focusing on our vision and strengthening our stewardship responsibilities, both present and future, has always emphasized.

It is a momentous time for Old Ship. A time to reflect on our past and plan for our future. We have a lot of important decisions to make in the next few

months. They will be made after many conversations and deliberations. And as this congregation has always done, we will make these decisions with all of the love and respect we have for one another and...definitely with some zest.

Blessings, For the Board of Trustees, Janet Asnes

Among Us

We send deep sympathy to Rich and Diane Elliott and their family. Diane's mother, Ann Double Abbey, died peacefully this past Sunday afternoon. She was 96 years old and had lived with Diane and Rich for the past five years, after moving



here from Colorado. Ann's roots were in Hingham but her life took her to many places: Mississippi, Oklahoma, Texas and finally Colorado where she spent many years in her beloved mountains. She believed deeply in caring for the earth and believed that the Great Spirit was Love, Compassion and most importantly Life. She was a character and a very special person.

Gini Pomeroy expects to be back home at Linden Ponds today (Tuesday, April 26), following recent surgery and then rehab. We wish Gini continued progress in her rehab and we send much love.

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,

Music Sunday is coming up on Mother's Day, May 8. The Old Ship Choir will be singing two beautiful selections: Prayer for Ukraine and Sure On This Shining



Night. Additionally, there will be other special music from instrumentalists and vocalists. If you are interested in joining the choir for Music Sunday, send me a message -- I would love to hear from you! I'm looking forward to sharing this music with the Old Ship Community, so I hope to see you on Sunday, May 8!

Sincerely, Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

Elizabeth Torrey

i thank You God for most this amazing day:for the leaping greenly spirits of trees and a blue true dream of sky; and for everything which is natural which is infinite which is yes

(i who have died am alive again today, and this is the sun's birthday; this is the birth day of life and of love and wings: and of the gay great happening illimitably earth)

how should tasting touching hearing seeing breathing any–lifted from the no of all nothing–human merely being doubt unimaginable You?

(now the ears of my ears awake and now the eyes of my eyes are opened)

--e.e. cummings

I welcome your responses-Elizabeth Torrey



Children's Religious Education Sunday, May 1

We continue to create meaningful opportunities for reflection, spiritual engagement, learning and multi age community for our children and youth.

Recent Activity:

- Annual Seder for all ages children and youth and their teachers
- Annual Easter celebration, discussion & reflection, and "Traditional" Hingham Cemetery Easter Egg Hunt
- Youth Group trip to Somerville to see Critically Acclaimed Trans Feminine Poet, Writer & Comedian ALOK
- Father Bills Lunch Making

Upcoming Activity:

• City Reach Service Weekend in Boston- April 29 & 30.



• Coming of Age Service for whole congregation : June 5th

• Pride Day Celebration. Afternoon, June 12th. Hosted by Youth group, for whole congregation, regional UU churches, and public.

Sunday morning programs

Nursery Care for the very young is provided Each week in the Parish House nursery.

All programs will begin with attendance for the first part of the worship service at 10:30 AM in the Meeting House. Then travel to Parish House for:

- 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 <u>oldshipchurch.org</u>
For more information

Please see www.oldshipchurch.org, and/or email dre@oldshipchurch.org.

Thank you!
Your RE Committee and Volunteer Teacher Team











Religious Education Activities in April

We celebrated a multi-generational Seder together - our annual tradition. The story was compelling, the eating together was wonderful, and the prizes for finding afikomen were a take home treat!



Easter! A fun and cooperative egg hunt in the cemetery was enjoyed by all! Before we headed out to search we gathered at the memorial garden to talk about Easter, spring, renewal, friendship, hope, and Ken's story for all ages about "Eastering"

50 Lunches are made monthly for Father Bills in Quincy. Our children and youth enjoy the opportunity to participate in social justice efforts and to discuss the value of thoughtful, respectful, requested assistance, or hospitality, for people in our local communities.















Interim Religious Education and Transitional Congregational Consultation

Deb Weiner continues to work with us, starting in April with our second phase of the consulting partnership. We will work together through the end of the year. During April, May and June Deb will work with the RE Committee and The Board of Trustees in the following areas and on these objectives:

- · Recruitment, screening & hiring of our Religious Education staff member
- Revitalization of Religious Education Committee, membership recruitment, training & planning well for an upcoming transitional year
- Social Justice and Religious Education Community Ministry collaboration, problem solving, brain storming for increased social justice opportunities for children, youth and families to participate in as a faith formation, religious education, ministry option

- Plan creation with a "Return to Normalcy" focus, for the upcoming year(s)
- Link Old Ship Church to regional neighbor UU Churches, facilitate a joint leadership event across various congregations and towns
- With Board of Trustees identify adaptive leadership strategies and supports, potential congregational activity to support upcoming transitions
 Please feel free to reach out with any questions regarding the consulting services and support that Deb is providing. You can reach out to <u>Deb Weiner</u> directly, Board of Trustees members, and/or <u>Ken</u>

Religious Education/ Faith Formation Staff Recruitment Update

We have posted an advertisement at the UUA, on Indeed, and Facebook to hire a part time (20 hr. /week) Director of Religious Education for next year, to begin in August 2022. Please see the job positing on our <u>website</u>. Please do pass it along to candidates that you feel may be a good match for this position-in terms of experience, aptitude and awareness of or willingness to learn about Unitarian Universalism. If you have any questions regarding the position or the posting please contact Deb Squires Lee or Susan Carrillo.

May Baskets bring May Flowers!

Last Call for May Baskets!

Pansies and baskets await your orders - they would love to land on the doorstep of someone special! Deliveries will be made early on May 1, or you may pick up your baskets on Saturday, April 30 from 9 - noon at the Parish house, to deliver yourself. Order and pay with the form here on



Breeze, or fill out a form at the Parish House during office hours. You may also email Nina at with all the info: your friend's name and address, and any message from you. \$10 if picked up, \$12 if delivered. AND, Would anyone like to help deliver?? Feel like a kid again? We will meet at the Parish House at 8 and be back by 9. It's FUN! Email Nina to volunteer.

Happy Spring, and Happy May Day!!

Annual Old Ship Plant Sale

The annual Old Ship Plant Sale is **Saturday, May 7**, from 9am to 2pm. If the weather cooperates, we will be selling perennials and a small selection of annuals from the lawn in front of the Parish House. If you have perennials that you have potted up from your yard, please label them with as much info as



possible so that shoppers can have as much descriptive information as possible. If you can provide a color picture (either a photo or a color picture from your printer), that would be very helpful. Please drop off your plant donations by the side door to the Parish House no earlier than Thursday, May 5. We need helpers for set up on Friday, May 6 and on the day of the sale. Please contact Carol Valentine about volunteering at cvbostonma@aol.com or 781-749-6519. If you have any questions or need pots, please contact Janice

McPhillips or 781-249-9141. It will be great to see fellow Old Shippers and plant shoppers at this fun community building fundraiser. Thank you!

Estate Sale May 7

Stop by the Fellowship Hall on May 7, 9:00 AM -2:00 PM and pick up some bargains! Furniture, rugs, vases, baskets, kitchen and office items from the parish house. All at reasonable prices. Even some books from Ken's library, Merrie Market Treasures and other "treasures" from the attic! See you there!



Old Ship's Annual Meeting Sunday, May 15

In our faith tradition we believe that each of us has an important voice in how we govern ourselves. Our 5th Principle calls us to



practice "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large." Although we do this in many committee meetings throughout the year, our by-laws mandate that we meet on the third Sunday in May to hear the reports from our minister, staff and committee chairs, approve an operational budget for the upcoming year and vote for lay leadership. In short, we gather to do the business of the church.

Staff and committee chairs are putting the final touches on their annual reports, and the Finance Committee is submitting the draft budget to the Board of Trustees based on pledge projections for next year. This will be posted on the website and a link sent to all members soon.

Please join us for **Old Ship's Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 15th at noon**. We will be meeting in person and via Zoom. All members and friends are invited to attend; however, only voting members are authorized to cast their vote. A voting member is a member who "has made a recorded financial contribution toward the general support of the Parish within twelve (12) months immediately preceding the date on which notices of any Parish meeting shall be posted shall be entitled to vote at such meeting." (by-laws Article 3, Section 2). The link to the meeting will be sent out the week prior.

If you have any questions as to whether or not you are a voting member, please reach out to Diane Jordan, Clerk.

We hope to see you there!

Janet Asnes for the Board of Trustees

OLD SHIP COOKOUT MAY 28

Mark your calendars for **Saturday**, **May 28**, **at 5:00 p.m.** for the Old Ship Memorial Day Weekend Cookout at the Parish House. This is a great way to get to know one another better

& all are welcome! The event will be held outside with tables/chairs/grills set up in the driveway. We provide hamburgers, hot dogs, veggie burgers, buns, beverages and condiments. We ask you to bring a side dish, salad or dessert. A \$5 contribution per adult is encouraged to cover our expenses. Kids are free! No alcoholic beverages will be served. To sign up, contact Sharon Prehn at 781-925-0101.



Interim Operations Team

What is it? The Interim Operations Team is responsible for coordinating the move and storage of items in the current Parish House, and to identify and secure space for offices and other needed space once the Parish House is sold. Coordinators are Kate Doyle, Carol Valentine and Ron Pollara.



Teams have been diligently sorting through religious education items and deciding what must be kept, what can be sold in our yard sale on May 7, and what can be discarded. Teams are being formed to sort through our historical archives, kitchen, attic, basement and garage. Please contact the coordinators if you have any interest in helping with this monumental task. We are also looking for storage in YOUR basement, attic, barn or garage for safe storage of what we will not need during the next two to three years. The fewer costs for storage and rentals the better! Thanks!

Life Learning Offerings

click here to see our 2021-2022 Life Learning brochure

Ongoing groups and gatherings

click here to see our 2021-2022 Life Learning brochure



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 in the Parish House parlor and on Zoom through meditation and conversation as we read from Thich Nhat Han's book *No Death, No Fear.* 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 May 8 – in the Parish House parlor and on Zoom. Contact <u>Ralph Brown</u> or <u>Rich Elliott</u> for information and, for the Zoom link.

Women's Breakfast and Conversation – 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, send an email to <u>Janice McPhillips</u> and she will send you the Zoom invitation – 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. 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, May 3, at 7:00 p.m. We will gather in the Parlor and on Zoom. Email <u>Ken</u> with any questions about ceilidh or for the Zoom link.

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)



Mark your calendars for our May Anti-Racism

Book Group 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 Smith 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. We are very excited to have the author with us on Zoom for our discussion of the novel.

For more information or if you have questions about the group, contact <u>Davalene Cooper</u>. 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 May meeting: https://zoom.us/j/96346647557?

pwd=VUs0Q3VpWW4vdXJuYIV5OFYzN1dBdz09

Warrant Article for the 2022 Old Ship Annual Meeting— Will the Congregation approve the recommendation of the Social Justice Council to become a Member Congregation of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light?

Recently, as part of our social justice commitment to climate justice, we reconnected with Mass Interfaith Power and Light. This organization is headed by the Rev. Cindy Davidson, a UU minister who has been connected to UU environmental issues for a long time. In addition, the policy director for the organization is another UU minister who many of us know, the Rev. Fred Small. One of the ways to support this important organization is to become a Member Congregation. In looking at the list of congregations who have taken

this step, we found that many of them are UU congregations.

You may learn more about the organization at Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light (massipl.org). The list of Member Congregations can be found at Our Member Congregations — Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light (massipl.org). The SJC thinks this would be a good way for us to be more involved with climate justice issues, and more supportive of the broader work in this area. There is a donation fee, which the SJC would pay from our budget this year. We urge the congregation to support this Article at our annual meeting.

May's Special Plate Collection is for the "Outright LGBTQ Ukraine Emergency Fund" — OutRight Action International is a leading international organization dedicated to human rights advocacy on behalf of people who experience discrimination or abuse on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity or expression. Their motto is "Human Rights for LGBTIQ People Everywhere." Due to the war and reports of discrimination against LGBTQ people, they have created a special fund for LGBTIQ people still in Ukraine, and for refugees fleeing the war. The funds we raise at Old Ship will go to this special fund. To learn more about this fund and OutRight Action, visit their website at OutRight Action, visit their website at OutRight LGBTIQ Ukraine <a href="Emergency Fund | OutRight Action International (outrightinternational.org).

Remember, you may make your donation <u>online</u> 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 Outright LBBTIQ Ukraine designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations!

Thanks to all who contributed to our March special plate for the Old Ship Youth Group Service Trip. We raised \$2,279.56. for this important part of our youth ministry. Thanks to everyone for their generosity.

UUA and UUSC Respond to Russia's Attack on Ukraine — For information about how UUSC is responding to the refugee crisis created by this unprovoked attack, go to We Demand An End to the Bloodshed": UUSC Responds to Vladimir Putin's Invasion of Ukraine - Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. There is also a list of organization at this link that are directly responding to the crisis in Ukraine. For a statement from the UUA regarding this crisis and how UUs can best help, go to Supporting Those Impacted by the Crisis in Ukraine | Press Releases | UUA.org and Support for <u>Ukrainian Refugees | International Unitarian Universalism | UUA.org.</u> UUSC's initial emergency response includes providing immediate funding to the Hungarian Helsinki Committee (HHC) and the FemFund, two groups already on the ground working on equitable recovery for displaced people. The first steps include: 1) Distributing humanitarian aid to women, people of color, and LGBTQI+ individuals who have fled Ukraine — including delivery of food, cooking supplies, batteries, generators, lamps, and other necessities for those arriving in Poland, 2) Providing free legal assistance, counseling, and plainlanguage information to those arriving in Hungary, enabling them to access their rights as asylum seekers, and 3) Organizing support for grassroots groups who are fighting pushbacks of BIPOC migrants.

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 Parish House office anytime the office is open (9-1 weekdays). *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.

Father Bill's Cooking Teams — The six cooking teams staffed by Old Shippers and others from the area have continued to provide full dinner meals for those served at Father Bill's Shelter in Quincy. Each group makes dinner for the shelter four times during the year. Father Bill's has expressed deep appreciation for the consistency and commitment from the six teams during these challenging times. Thanks to Brenda Black for coordinating these teams. We also want to thank those who participate in this project, providing meals for the shelter four times per year. Here is the list of our six cooking teams. Thanks to all of you for being a part of this important work!

- Charlotte Champagne (Team Leader), Mary Petrino, Bob Casey, Kathy Lynch, and Kevin Mulvey & Bruce Mauer
- 2. Sharon Prehn (Team Leader), Nina Wellford, Erica Goode, Carolyn Locke, Judy Sneath, and Mary Markel & David Murphy
- 3. Peggy Weymouth (Team Leader), Nancy Hill, Ronnie Scott, Julie Kembel, Avis Goldstein, Stephanie Connolly, and Kathi Lesko
- 4. Dave Petrie (Team Leader), Frank Cheney, Mid Walsh, Brenda Black & Ron Pollara, Paul Stone, Stewart Lewack, and Libby Benson
- 5. Janice McPhillips (Team Leader), Janet Blampied, Susan Read-Brown, Roseanne Bush, Diane Clarke, Caryn Schneider, and Gail Moran Slater
- 6. Pia Young and Lisa Sawyer (Team Leaders), Allan Greenberg, Barbara Ganem, Fan Leonard, and Davalene Cooper

UU the Vote 2022 has Launched — UU the Vote is organizing on the state and local levels to fight for fair elections, advance voting rights, protect abortion access, and resist the targeting and criminalization of Black, Indigenous, and people of color communities. For more information and/or to sign up to receive emails from the project, go to <u>UU</u> the Vote - Faith, Love, and Action. Together

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 <u>Side With Love</u>.

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 and advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address

to <u>Davalene Cooper</u>, Keeper of the List.

UUA Article 2 Study Commission Invitation to Participate in Envisioning How are Purposes and Principles Might Be Revised and Expanded —

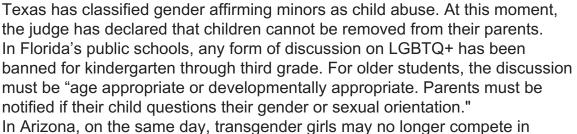
This Commission is considering how our Unitarian Universalist Purposes and Principles might be changed for the future. You can learn more about this process, including participating in an individual survey to share your input on this important issue for our faith community. Information and a link to the survey can be found at the following link: Article II Study Commission UUA.org. The survey will be available until April 30, 2022. Participate and make your views known on this important aspect of our faith!

Old Ship's Task Force on Widening the Circle of Concern— This new task force at Old Ship is considering the Widening the Circle report from the UUA Commission on Institutional Change, which made findings and recommendations regarding the problems of racism and white supremacy within Unitarian Universalism. The goal of creating this task force is to give us a means for examining the report and making recommendations for how Old Ship might widen our welcome to all, encourage more diversity, and broaden our circle of concern. Although the report is about dismantling white supremacy and becoming more aware of how we might be discouraging radical welcome and hospitality, our conversations and recommendations might be broader than just the report. We will see as we learn and explore. If you would like to be part of this work, contact Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net. Watch future newsletters for information about our next meeting.

Welcoming Congregation Committee

There is a theme to the anti-LGBTQ+ and anti-abortion bills being passed around the country: create enough fear and rile up the religious groups, so those proposing and passing the bills will be (re-)elected.

In the three months of this year, over 175 anti-LGBTQ+ bills have been introduced or discussed in state legislatures. At least 4 new anti-LGBTQ+ laws, and enacted.



school sports; and outlaw abortion beyond 15 weeks of pregnancy. Idaho and South Dakota have also stopped transgender girls from playing sports.

In 2021, 17 anti-LGBTQ+ laws were enacted in 8 states.



On Thursday May 12, the Welcoming Congregation Committee will be leading a discussion about this backlash on LGBTQ+ community. Please join us on Zoom only at 7pm.

If you have questions, please email Abby. To Join Zoom Meeting

SAVE THE DATES! AUGUST 12-14, 2022 The Old Ship Church Summer Retreat

Just when you thought it was safe to go back in the water... it is! The Old Ship Church Summer Retreat at Craigville Beach in Centerville is happening this August after a 2 year hiatus! All Old Shippers and staff are invited to attend for some fun, sun,



relaxing, reflecting, and worship. We have reserved The Manor at the Craigville Retreat Center, which can house up to 23 people with 2 rooms on the first floor and 7 on the second floor. The price per person is around \$230. for 2 nights lodging and 3 meals included. You can check out their website at https://www.uccr.org/craigville.. If you have questions or would like to sign up, please contact Diane Jordan 617-308-7179.

Save the Date! Ken's Retirement Party

On Saturday afternoon, June 18, we will be honoring the Reverend Ken Read-Brown with a farewell celebration of his 35 years of leading our congregation. The work he has done with our community has truly been a blessing. Please join us as Ken begins his well deserved retirement.



Volunteer Request / Opportunity this Week Friday April 29 at 4:00 PM

To drive the clothes from our Old Ship collection (& a few bags of food/groceries) to the Common Cathedral location in Boston for a 6 PM drop off.

An Old Ship representative needs to drop off the clothes we collected this week plus a few bags of food supplies to Old South Church, 645 Boylston St Boston, MA 02116 at 6 PM as part of the City Reach Service Trip weekend commitment. We need to find a volunteer, or 2, to do this since this time specific drop off happens at *same time* youth and chaperones are gathering together in Parish House for the Day 1 kick off activities of the weekend (it's tricky this hybrid zoom, and in person weekend combo)!

The drop off time is precise. Volunteers will be at curbside to take all bags out of the cars. So no need to unload items yourself. Anticipate several garbage bag size bags of clothes, a couple small suitcase and several bags of groceries- so car size will matter.

If this is something you would like to do –please call or text Maureen Butler 617-877 -5204 by Thursday at Noon.

We will meet you at Old Ship on Friday at 4 PM to load your car.

Thank you in advance, The Youth Group



The Old Ship Calendar

The Old Ship Church calendar is available on our website by clicking <u>here</u>.

If you have an upcoming event or meeting and you want to see it on the calendar, please email <u>Lisa</u> in the office.

Additionally, if you contact information has changed, please email <u>Lisa</u> so she can update the Old Ship database.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- Special Parish Meeting Sunday, May 1, 6:00 p.m. Meeting House/Zoom
- Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday, May 3, 7:00 p.m. Nursery
- Board of Trustees Thursday, May 5, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; Email Janet Asnes for the Zoom Link
- **Deacons** Friday, May 6, 3:00 p.m. Zoom
- Committee on Ministry Tuesday, May 10, 5:00 p.m. Zoom
- Welcoming Congregation Committee for the 21st Century Thursday, May 12, 7:00 p.m., Zoom
- Annual Meeting Sunday, May 15, 11:45 p.m. Meeting House/Zoom
- Pastoral Care Team Meeting Tues., May 17, 12:30 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 he 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.



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