



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
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June 2022 Newsletter

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Deadline for Summer newsletter: Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Worship: 10:25 a.m.
Multi-Platform:
Join us in-person in our Old
Ship Meeting House
(masks required once again - and
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, June 5 **Coming of Age Sunday**

Every two or so years we have the opportunity to celebrate our youth, Liza Cornetta, Annie Mercurio, and Sofi Zalduondo, who have just completed their Coming of Age program here at Old Ship. This will include hearing their personal faith statements, which never fails to move and inspire.



Ken and the leaders of this year's program will, along with our youth, lead the service. Come and support our wonderful young people and their mentors and families.

Following the service, Mary and Abby Diamond-Kissiday will present "Gender in the 21st Century: An Overview". See details below elsewhere in this

Sunday, June 12

Ken's sermon will be based on a phrase that Henry David Thoreau often used, particularly in his journals: "Worth the While." What is it "worth the while" to spend one's time doing or observing or just being – whether individually or in community with others?

At noon we will celebrate Old Ship's annual Pride Day on the lawn of the Meeting House: Plenty of music, tie-dye, and more! Open to the wider community. Details are below. Y'all come!

Sunday, June 19

This will be our annual "Flower Communion" Sunday. We are all invited to bring a flower to the service to contribute to a common bouquet. At the end of the service we will each take a different flower with us, symbolizing our sharing in community.

Ken's sermon, "What's a Blessing?", will be an updated version of the very first sermon he preached for the Search Committee lo these many years ago. This will be Ken's final sermon for the church year and for his thirty-five year ministry among us.

Sunday, June 26

This will be our first summer service – this year to be held in the Meeting House. As he has done for the past several years, Ken will lead us in a service in the manner of the Society of Friends (the Quakers): much silence and an invitation to each to speak from the silence as the spirit moves.

from the minister's desk

Musing

By now I expect you've seen the announcement that Old Ship's interim minister will be Rev. Erin Splaine. A graduate of Harvard Divinity School, during her twenty-four years of ministry Erin has served three Massachusetts congregations, including for the past twelve years our Unitarian Universalist congregation in Newton. Erin brings all this experience, along with energy, creativity, and dedication to the values and tradition of our Unitarian Universalist faith to her interim ministry here at Old Ship. I have complete confidence that Old Ship will be very well-served by Erin during these years of many transitions and exciting challenges. We are very fortunate indeed!



I also have confidence that you will support Erin and encourage her in her ministry just as for thirty-five years you have supported and encouraged me. This said, interim ministry is a bit different from settled ministry. Though much if not most of what Erin will be doing falls into the usual categories of preaching, pastoring, and teaching, along with administrative responsibilities, she will also be helping the congregation to reflect on who we have been, who we are, and who you want to be – all this in preparation for your seeking and calling your new settled minister, likely in two years. Knowing you as I do, I trust that you will fully engage in this shared work with Erin.

Along the way, I'll be an interested observer, to put it mildly. For I love this First Parish Old Ship congregation to which I've devoted most of my professional life; so of course I hope only the best for you, with faith that together with Erin you will plant the seeds for a beautiful flourishing next era in the long life of our First Parish.

As you well know, I will no longer be your minister as of July 31, but I will always care about each and every one of you and I will always care about the health and well-being of our beloved Old Ship.

But I'm not gone yet! I'll see you this Sunday and the next and the next...!

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

Messages from Janet Asnes and Diane Jordan President, Board of Trustees



- **From Janet Asnes, outgoing president.**

I love this time of year. The days are longer, the weather is kinder. There is anticipation of vacations, beach days, walks in the woods. It is also one of the busiest months for me at work. June is about winding everything up while preparing for the next year before many depart for the summer, all the while students and adults alike are suffering from spring fever.

Wait a minute....this is what I wrote LAST year as outgoing president! Ha ha. Sometimes the saying "everything old is new again" rings true to me. This spring it definitely does. I was honored when asked to finish the last few months of Ginny Perelson's term as president. It provided the opportunity for me to be a part of completing the sale of the Parish House, a conversation we have been having for six years at Old Ship, and help set the next stage for us in the **new** Old Ship. Coming back to the Board also allowed me to spend more time with Ken Read-Brown before he retires. Not only has Ken been my spiritual teacher for nearly twenty years, but I have also had the privilege of working with him on the Board for six plus years. I have learned a lot about church operations and governance and facilitating meetings from him. But perhaps the greatest lessons I have learned from being in meetings with Ken are how to be present with people and the power of listening to not only the words but the silence between the words. Grateful doesn't even come close to how I feel.

I feel the same about this congregation. Being part of Old Ship these past few years has helped anchor me. We maintained our connection through the remote days of the pandemic and continued to have thoughtful and respectful discussions about our future. Now we stand on the forefront of an exciting time in our story. We are going to enter into a period of interim ministry during which we will remind ourselves of where we've been and who we want to be in the

future. We will begin planning for our new parish house using our values and principles to build an environmentally friendly space. And while doing all this work we will continue to be in community with one another, working for social justice, expanding our spiritual journeys, singing and worshipping with one another. It's a new day for Old Ship and I am grateful to be sharing it with all of you.

- **From Diane Jordan, incoming president**

Serving as the President of the Board of Trustees at Old Ship is an honor and a privilege. Thank you for granting me this wonderful opportunity, and I am looking forward to serving our congregation this upcoming church year. We can see in the forecast that this will be a time of many changes. A time of new beginnings, new opportunities, a New Old Ship. We can hold what has passed with love in our hearts while finding room for more love, together.

My hope for this year is to hold our congregation with care and kindness. We have all gathered here and found something that keeps us coming back. I believe it is because of each and every one of you. You all bring something special to our Old Ship family. With all the changes coming - a new Interim Minister, a new Director of Religious Education, a new green building on the horizon – we need to care for each other more than ever. It's easy to see how these changes can be unsettling. It's also easy to see how our community can help each other with loving support, keeping why we are here first and foremost, and moving forward with our principles and outreach in mind.

Going from a Trustee on the Board, to Clerk, to President, has been a wonderful experience. As a parishioner, Board member, and adult education class member, the lessons I have learned from Ken Read-Brown have enriched my life and will stay with me forever. It's hard to imagine life at Old Ship without him. After services or meetings with Ken, I always leave wanting to be a better person. While his presence will be completely missed, his teachings will always be with me, and I hope with you, and for that we can all be grateful.

A time of saying goodbye to Ken and the Parish House. A time of saying hello to new leaders and facilities. A time of sadness and excitement. Sounds like Ecclesiastes and The Byrds Turn! Turn! Turn!. Sounds like life. I hope we use this time to turn Old Ship into the future, with love, together

Among Us

Marty Saunders is currently living at Rose Court, the nursing facility at Linden Ponds (where Marty has lived for many years). We send Marty healing thoughts and prayers.



Joan Bledsoe is at Rose Court recovering from hospitalization from an embolism; she expects to be home with Turner in their Linden Ponds apartment perhaps as soon as today. We send Joan healing thoughts and prayers.

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](#)

[Claire Petrie](#)

[Carol Valentine](#)

[Joan Wilson](#)

[Ken Read-Brown](#)

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

While I have only been at Old Ship for a few years now, I am thankful to have had the privilege of working with Ken Read-Brown. I could not ask for a better colleague. As we all well know, Ken will be retiring in a few weeks and I wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you. When I first met Ken, it was clear to me that Old Ship has something very special. I was overjoyed to observe and experience Old Ship's deep connection to music. This connection goes beyond appreciating music's beauty, but also to understanding the intention, meaning, and power behind it. When we sing together we feel united because we *are* united. When we share a common refrain it becomes stronger *together*. When there is no word to describe our feelings, music does the speaking. We at Old Ship know this to be true; we have had the gift of experiencing it first hand. Over the course of my time here, I've come to realize that Old Ship's connection to music is no simple accident. Ken has helped us see how much music impacts us as individuals, a community, and a world. He's shown us that through example. I think I can speak for many of us when I say thank you, Ken, for fostering our love and appreciation of music. The gift you have given us will continue to live on here at Old Ship. We wish you a very happy retirement full of love and certainly, full of music.



With Gratitude,
Christopher Nickelson-Mann

WISDOM OF THE POETS

Elizabeth Torrey

"Trilliums"

Every spring
among
the ambiguities
of childhood

the hillsides grew white
with the wild trilliums.
I believed in the world.
Oh, I wanted

to be easy
in the peopled kingdoms,
to take my place there,
but there was none

that I could find
shaped like me.
So I entered
through the tender buds,

I crossed the cold creek,
my backbone
and my thin white shoulders
unfolding and stretching.

From the time of snow-melt,
when the creek roared
and the mud slid
and the seeds cracked,

I listened to the earth-talk,
the root-wrangle,
the arguments of energy,
the dreams lying

just under the surface,
then rising,
becoming
at the last moment

flaring and luminous --
the patient parable
of every spring and hillside
year after difficult year.

-- Mary Oliver,
Dream Work (New York: Atlantic Monthly Press, 1986), pp. 10-11.

I welcome your responses- [Elizabeth Torrey](#)



Coming of Age Service - June 5th!

As Unitarian Universalists, we ask our teenagers to participate in a year-long curriculum to learn about Unitarian Universalism and to think about and learn to articulate their own personal beliefs. The culmination of this year-long investigation is a service at which they are asked to share their faith statements.



This year we are proud to present three amazing young people along with the wonderful mentors who worked with them on this journey of self exploration. They have explored topics including after death beliefs, why bad things happen to good people, values, spiritual practice and faith. Part of the curriculum focuses on community service and giving back. These passionate and compassionate young people chose to donate the money the congregation has entrusted to them to the environment, Ukraine, reproductive rights and the unhoused in Boston.

Don't miss this very special service designed by and celebrating our Old Ship youth!

Children's Religious Education Sunday, June 5



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

Upcoming Activity:

- 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 oldshipchurch.org

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 May



Friday night , delivered
our MANY bags of
sorted clothing, bags,
toiletries etc. !
Thank you !

Susan delivers items
recently purchased by
our youth to the heartfelt
haul.



Our City Reach Saturday activity was
held at Old South Church on Boylston
St. This sign hung outside the
doorway, and behind our sunny
sidewalk table set-up. Guests stopped
by for socks, sweatshirts and toiletries
they needed before heading inside for
additional shopping and visiting.



Leo and Cierra work
together with Spider, A
Common Cathedral staff
member, and push a
huge bin of toiletries
from Old South Church
to St. Francis House .



Graduating Senior Recognition At Old Ship

On Sunday, May 22, the graduating high school seniors

our current bell was cleaned, lubricated, and repainted fifty years ago – 1972. To celebrate the bell's 200th birthday everyone is invited to the Meeting House on Saturday, June 11 at 2:00 (of course) to share in the ringing of our bell 200 (of course) times.



March for Our Lives Saturday, June 11 12:00 PM

March for Our Lives is organizing actions related to gun reform, including demonstrations throughout the United States on June 11. There is a protest being organized for Boston on Saturday, June 11, 2022, from 12 noon to 2 p.m. This will be held on the Boston

Common. Information about this protest and other possible actions can be found at the organization's website: [Take Action - March For Our Lives](https://marchforourlives.org/take-action)



As you may know, March for Our Lives was founded after the 2018 school shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL.

JOIN US FOR OLD SHIP'S ANNUAL PRIDE DAY Sunday, June 12th 12:00 PM - 3:00 PM

Celebrate our LGBTQ+ Members Friends Family and Loved Ones. Games, Tye-dye, Activities, Bands, and Opportunities for Social Action

**"Fight for the things that you care about, but do it in a way that will lead others to join you."
-RBG**



Save the Date! Ken's Retirement Party In the Meeting House June 18, 3:00

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.



Save the Date: Farewell to the Parish House



We've scheduled a "Farewell to the Parish House" event for Thursday, July 21, at 6:30 p.m. We will begin at the labyrinth in the Fellowship Hall and then move outdoors as the sun sets and we express our gratitude for all the gifts this old house has bestowed upon our congregation for the past sixty years. Further details will appear in a summer newsletter.

SUMMER SERVICES ARE ALMOST HERE!

Once again this July and August, the Worship and Music Committee will be hosting Summer Services. It takes YOU, our Community, to make them truly successful.



Summer Services are in a similar format to our regular service with one big difference - the service is run by lay people - that's you! The really great part is you can do a whole service or just a piece of one. You decide. We want to hear what turns you on spiritually and this is your chance.

This is a great opportunity for Community Members to get to know each other on a deeper, more personal level. That's what Summer Services are all about so please take part!

To sign up or to just get more info because you are curious contact [Karen Churchill](#) or text/call 781-812-5518.

Invitation to Worship Tech Team

As you know, Colin McGinnis has been our solo "tech team" for Sunday worship for the past two years, managing the cameras and computer connections, then putting each service up on YouTube. We would like to support Colin with a bit more of a team! If you are interested in helping out during the upcoming worship year, please contact [Ken Read-Brown](#).



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 fourth Sunday in June, Ken Read-Brown will lead the group on Zoom through meditation and conversation as we continue to read from Thich Nhat Han's book *No Death, No Fear*. On alternate Sundays and during the summer

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 at oldshipkrb@gmail.com.

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – our next gathering will be June 12 – in the Parish House parlor and on Zoom. Contact Ralph Brown (ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) or Rich Elliott (richelliott56@gmail.com) 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 Janice McPhillips at jbbmcpillips@gmail.com 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 – In June we will meet on the second and fifth Thursday at 4:00 p.m. for meditation and conversation based on a shared text reading. Email Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@gmail.com) 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. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, June 7, at 7:00 p.m. We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor (if it feels Covid safe) as well as on Zoom. Email Ken with any questions about ceilidh or for the Zoom link: oldshipkrb@gmail.com.

Fiber Funship

Fiber Funship will no longer meet in the Parish House. We will meet Wednesdays at 1:30, outside at members' homes during the summer. For info contact [Diane Elliot](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

Next Meeting is Saturday, July 9th, at 4 p.m. in person. We will be gathering to plan our work for the coming church year. Please contact Davalene Cooper if you would like to attend and be part of our planning process.



Anti-Racism Book Group meeting June 19 at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

We will discuss *The Night Watchman* by Louise Erdrich (2020). This Pulitzer Prize winning novel is based on the life of Erdrich's grandfather who fought against Native dispossession of lands and identity. Erdrich is a member of the Turtle Mountain band of the Chippewa Nation. Barb Jones will lead our discussion.

For the next church year, we will again meet on Zoom the third Sunday of each month, except December. We will meet from 7 to 8:30 p.m. We are

expanding our range of books to include environmental/climate justice, which aligns with the congregation's specific focus regarding social justice. Our book for the September 18 meeting is *Waste: One Woman's Fight Against America's Dirty Secret* by Catherine Coleman Flowers (2020). This book "tells the story of systemic class, racial, and geographical prejudice that fosters Third World conditions" in the United States. The author is an environmental justice advocate at the Equal Justice Initiative. Laura Harbottle will lead our discussion. This book is an example of where racism and environmental justice intersect.

For more information or if you have questions about the group, contact [Davalene Cooper](#). This group is open to all who are interested in learning more about these social justice issues. 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 June meeting:

<https://zoom.us/j/91514045121?pwd=SIV1ME1RSUhZQkZ5Z3VZRjNUV1U4QT09>.

Warrant Article for the 2022 Old Ship Annual Meeting on becoming a Member Congregation of Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light (MassIPL) —

Thanks to the congregation for its support of this Warrant Article. We are beginning to explore how best to intersect with MassIPL, which itself is working with Mass Power Forward. We are excited to be making these new connections to our congregation's work on climate justice.

Special Plate Collections — We have completed our special plate collections for this church year. Special plates will begin again in October. We will update the amounts donated this year in the next newsletter. Thanks to everyone for their generosity during this challenging time.

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 September through June). ***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 this time: Cookies, Pasta Sauce, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Spaghetti, Mac & Cheese, and 1 lb. bags of Granulated Sugar. Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043.

UU the Vote 2022 — 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 [UU 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 [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 and advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.

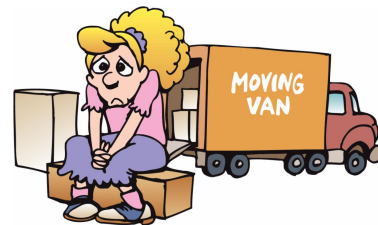
SAVE THE DATES! AUGUST 12-14, 2022 The Old Ship Church Summer Retreat

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.



Interim Operations Team needs YOU!

Actually some dry space in your home, garage or barn to store saved items from the Parish House. We would prefer not to rent a storage facility for the next couple of years. Can you help out Old Ship? Please contact the office.



Bikes not Bombs: A favor to ask our community

Remember how successful the November bikes not bombs event was ? So effective that the Bikes not Bombs truck could not bring ALL the bicycles collected at Old Ship to their headquarters in Jamaica Plain. As a result, there are several hanging out in our garage!

Would anyone with a proper vehicle be willing to take some of those bicycles from Hingham to Jamaica Plain? (284 Amory St Jamaica Plain, MA 02130. 617-522-0222)

I believe the drop off circumstances are very easy/ straightforward!

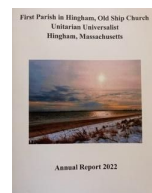
If you are able to take a few/ many bicycles, please call Maureen Butler. Or text me. 617-877-5204!

Many thanks!!



First Parish in Hingham, Old Ship Church 2022 Annual Report

Printed copies are available in the office and digital copies may be found on our website.





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

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, May 31, 7:00 p.m. Parlor
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, June 2, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; Email Janet Asnes for the Zoom Link
- **Deacons** - Friday, June 10 4:00 p.m. Zoom
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tues., June 21 12:00 p.m. Zoom
- **Committee on Ministry** - Tuesday, June 28, 5:00 p.m. Zoom

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 Summer
from your friends at Old
Ship Church!**



