



First Parish, Hingham  
**Old Ship Church**

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

[office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org) [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

## October 2022 Newsletter

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*Deadline for November's newsletter: Tuesday, October 25, 2022*

**Worship: 10:30 a.m.**  
**Multi-Platform:**  
**Join us in-person in the Meeting**  
**House**  
**or on Zoom**



***(masks are optional - and vaccination strongly urged)***

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

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

### A Note from Erin

What a time it has been! It feels like a blink of an eye ago that we started this interim time together and yet here we are at the beginning of our third month together. As we continue the good work of this congregation, of being together, of tending to each other — just as you have done for generations — we need to keep in mind that this is a transitional time for you all.



There is so much in flux and that can be both overwhelming and exciting. You have just said goodbye to Ken and experienced the end of a long and successful ministry. There are few congregations that begin again with a new minister after 35 years and yet here you are. You are just re-emerging and reconnecting after the pandemic. It was noted in a meeting recently that coffee hour after the service on Sept 25<sup>th</sup> was the first coffee hour since March of

2020. And you are still very much living the question about what will happen with the Parish House. A question that has torn at the fabric of relationships with each other and the congregation as a whole. Not to mention we are just getting to know each other.

It is a lot, and you can — we can do this.

At the most recent Committee on Ministry meeting, we agreed that they would be changing their name to the Transitional Ministry Committee. You will hear more about that from them next week. We are working on a plan to begin the conversation about how you all are doing in this time of transition. So, as Rachel Maddow says, “Watch this space!”

As busy as this time has been, my goal is to get to know more about you all and this wonderful congregation. Generally, I am in the office from early Tuesday through mid-day on Thursday. Friday is my writing day. Saturday is the day for making sure the entirety of the service is ready. Monday is the day I try to take off. My email is [minister@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:minister@oldshipchurch.org) and I can be reached by phone at the Parish House. Reach out when you have a question — or concern — or thought — when you like one of the changes I've made to the service, or if you don't like one of the changes.

In the next several months, the Board, the Transitional Ministry Ctte, and I will have more information to share about what the interim process will entail. In the meantime, we will continue to get to know each other and find ways to re-engage and re-connect.

Peace,  
Erin

### **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](#)  
[Erin Spaine](#)

### **Musical Notes**

Dear Old Ship,

It feels so good to get back into the swing of things here at Old Ship! I hope that this new church year will bring new experiences and growth for us all. If you're looking for a way to get involved at Old Ship, consider adding your voice to the choir. It's a wonderful group of warm and welcoming people. We would love to see you there!



A few folks have asked about what it's like and what is expected when you join the choir, so I thought this month's newsletter would be a good way to share some FAQs. If you've read this far then you must be at least a little curious, so check them out below!

I hope you have a wonderful fall and I look forward to hearing your voice whether it's upfront in the choir or out in the congregation.

Musically Yours,  
Christopher

**Q: I like singing, but I am nervous to put my voice out there. Why should I join the choir?**

A: First, a love of singing is really the only reason you need to join the choir. Singing in a choir is a great way to step outside your comfort zone in a supportive setting with other people who love to sing. And second, it's a fun and rewarding way to participate in the Old Ship community!

**Q: I don't know how to read music, but I'm interested in joining. Do you need to know how to read music?**

A: No, being able to read music isn't necessary, but it helps. Learning some basic note reading skills will go a long way! I'm happy to help get you started and answer any questions you may have along the way.

**Q: I want to join the choir, but I can't commit to every Sunday. What should I do?**

A: You don't have to commit to every Sunday, but consistency is helpful. Letting me know in advance when you can or can't make it is appreciated, but not required. Typically the choir sings three Sundays per month.

**Q: What if I sing a wrong note?? What if I sound bad?? I would be so embarrassed!!**

A: Pete Seeger said it best: "The easiest way to avoid wrong notes is to never open your mouth and sing. What a mistake that would be." We are humans; we all make mistakes. Live, learn, and move on – no big deal!

**Q: When do you rehearse? Are rehearsals required?**

A: Rehearsals are on Thursdays at 7pm in the Parish House Fellowship Hall; check the church calendar for those dates, as we do not practice every Thursday. Additionally, we rehearse prior to Sunday services at 9:30. Thursday rehearsals are strongly encouraged, especially leading up to Christmas Eve and Music Sunday. Sunday morning rehearsals are required in order to sing for the following service.

**Q: What kind of COVID policies do you have in place?**

A: We ask that all choir members be vaccinated. At this time masks must be worn while singing. This policy is continually reevaluated based on current covid trends.

Christopher Nickelson-Mann  
(He/His)  
Music Director  
First Parish of Hingham, Old Ship Church  
[www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

## WISDOM OF THE POETS

### HOPE

Old spirit, in and beyond me,  
keep and extend me. Amid strangers,  
friends, great trees and big seas breaking,  
let love move me. Let me hear the whole music,  
See clear, reach deep. Open me to find due words,  
that I may shape them to ploughshares of my own making.  
After such luck, however late, give me to give to  
the oldest dance....Then to good sleep,  
and - if it happens - glad waking.

Maine poet Philip Booth (1925-2007)

I welcome your comments.

Elizabeth ([elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com))



## Children and Youth Religious Education

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



### Sunday Morning Programs

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

- Elementary School Ages Class: During September we will focus on being outside together, creating personal chalices, exploring nature through our UU faith lens, sharing joys and concerns & reconnecting with each other after the summer
- Youth Group (Grades 8-12)
- Father Bill's Lunch Making: 4th Sunday of each month (all ages)
- Holiday Celebrations (all ages)

Parents with infants & toddlers are invited to join our Sunday worship services. We have 2 reserved pews set up with carpet, rocking chair, toys, etc. Feel free to use these, or to sit wherever you'd like to in our meeting house. There is easy stroller access up the garden ramp entrance, and the restroom (with changing table) is very close by. We welcome children's voices during the service !

### **Other programs (at other times):**

OWL. Our Whole Lives. For grades 8 and 9 .

OWL is a Comprehensive Life Span Sexuality Education program offered at Old Ship and many other Unitarian Universalist (and United Church of Christ) Congregations. As we do every other year, we will offer OWL for 8th and 9th graders this year. Sept through May.

See upcoming information, dates for any introduction meetings, and schedule from Debra Squires Lee ( We will reach out to all 8th and 9th graders and families)

We will be collaborating with other local UUA congregations (as we have done in the past at times) to offer this terrific, meaningful curriculum to our teens.

If you'd like to get a jump on enrolling for OWL and /or running any questions by our teachers please email the office and we will be sure they get your email!

**Please** register for the 2022-2023 year at [oldshipchurch.org](http://oldshipchurch.org)

**For more information**

**Please see** [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org), and/or email [dre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:dre@oldshipchurch.org).

Please reach out to us with all your questions, concerns and ideas!

We are all looking forward to seeing you!

Your Old Ship Church Religious Education Committee and Volunteer Teacher Team,

Janet Asnes, Susan Carrillo, Diane Elliott, Lauren Gadot, Alicia Harkness, Debra Squires Lee, Cierra West



Here's a photo from last Sunday of the youth (and a few young adults) making 80 bagged lunches for Father Bill's!

(These lunches are used throughout the week for residents who go to work so they can bring lunch with them. They are also used for people who come into the shelter between mealtimes or late at night

### **Youth Ministry Developments:**

The children and youth religious education committee is working with several churches in the area to explore the creation of a multi church youth group.

More to come, please stay tuned. There is possibly going to be an event on Monday, October 10th. We hope it will provide an opportunity for new





Back by popular demand, three candlelit Labyrinth walks will be held at Fellowship Hall at the Old Ship Parish House, 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA, Sundays at 5:00 P.M. on October 16, November 13 and December 11.



The first walk on October 16 will be led by guest yoga teacher of the south shore, Moira Congdon, who also is a personal trainer and a corrective exercise specialist/ Weather permitting, Moira plans to hold a 20 minute session of yoga postures outdoors. Please bring a mat and a blanket. The Labyrinth walk will be held indoors, led by Mary Thomas.

The session on November 13 will be a sound meditation led by wholistic health practitioner, artist and Old Ship Member, Santjes Oomen, along with her artisan husband Peter Lochtefeld. Together with musicians playing bells, crystal bowls, drums and chanting.

The Labyrinth Walks on December 11 will feature guest teacher, Jen McConnell, who has had training in Mindfulness and Metta Mediatation, a loving kindness meditation and Buddhist practice for cultivating compassion for ourselves and others through direct loving, friendly phrases and goodwill. The word "Metta" is a Pali word often translated as loving kindness.

All are welcome. For contact, call the parish administrator, Lisa Beck at 781-749-1679 Monday through Friday, 9:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Mary Thomas

### **The Wreath Makers are at it again**

Bayberries are on the branches and seed pods are more numerous than freckles. Please gather empty milkweed pods, big and little pine cones, (especially huge ones from California) pretty - medium to large -- shells, and any pods, grasses, tree fungus, hydrangeas, or other garden items that you may see on your turf-- or other places. We especially need pine cones.



When you have bags of these items, please bring them to the Old Ship office and write BIANCO on the bag. Wreath sales will be about November 18-20 this year. Don't forget that we will have 5 memorial wreaths on the Meeting House for you to dedicate to a loved one. We will also have several large, heavily decorated wreaths -- best to contact [Pat Bianco](#) to order a special, large decorated wreath or a dedicated wreath on Old Ship.

I think it is written somewhere - "blessed are the wreath-makers, for they bring joy".

Pat Bianco

## 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.. 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 [Lisa](#)



## Life Learning Offerings

*click here to see our [2022-2023 Life Learning Web Page](#)*



## Ongoing groups and gatherings

*click here to see our [2022-2023 Life Learning brochure](#)*

## The Way of the Bodhisattva

Every Sunday morning, 8:30 AM. Zoom only. Twenty minutes of sitting meditation followed by discussion of a Buddhist or related text, facilitated by Catherine Mayes. Newcomers warmly welcomed. No experience with Buddhism necessary. For questions and Zoom link, email [Lisa Sawyer](#).

## Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, October 13

4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Zoom

Second and fourth Thursday afternoons,

Each gathering includes time for meditation and conversation based on ideas and readings in ancient scriptures. We will read a variety of texts this year, beginning each session from an anthology of sacred texts titled *God Makes the Rivers to Flow*, ed. Eknath Easwaran. Newcomers are welcome. Gatherings will be by Zoom only. For information and the Zoom link, contact [Rich Elliott](#).

**Men's Breakfast** – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – our next gathering will be October 9th– on Zoom. Contact Ralph Brown ([ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com)) or Rich Elliott ([richelliott56@gmail.com](mailto: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. The next meeting will be on Sunday, October 23th. Open to all the women of the church. If you would like to attend, send an email to [Janice McPhillips](#) at [jbbmcphillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcphillips@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!

**Ceilidh!** – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, October 4, at 7:00 p.m. We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor as well as on Zoom. Email Eric Cornetta with any questions about Ceilidh or for the Zoom link:EECornetta@aol.com. The [zoom link](#) is:<https://zoom.us/j/92888235659?>



## Fiber Funship

We will meet Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, in the parlor. For info contact [Diane Elliott](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

## Serving Others

### News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

***Next Meeting is Saturday, October 22, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. If you are not a member and would like to join us for the meeting, contact Davalene Cooper at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) for the Zoom link. All are welcome!***



***UU the Vote: Our Special Plate Collection for October*** — We return to our special plate collections in October. As part of the Social Justice Council's support for UU the Vote this fall, we are designating them as the recipient of our special plate. Throughout October, we will be alerting members of our community as to how they can participate in UU the Vote actions to get out the vote for the November 8 elections. We especially encourage you to engage in postcard writing and/or phone banking. Our financial support will help UU the Vote to organize 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.](#)

Remember, you may make your special plate donation [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to Outreach or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with UU the Vote designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations!

### ***Anti-Racism/Social Justice Book Group meeting on October 16 at 7 p.m. on Zoom*** —

**We will discuss** discuss a book about immigration, "*Solito, Solita*." It is transcribed oral history about the horrific incidents that occur with young people immigrating from Central America. It is a free download--please contact Davalene Cooper at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) and she will send you the PDF. You also may purchase the book from Amazon or perhaps other places. Patti Smith will lead our discussion.

**At our November 20 meeting, we will be discussing Clint Smith's *How the Word is Passed: A Reckoning with the History of Slavery Across America*.** This book examines the role monuments and statues honoring the confederacy perpetuate white supremacy. Some of you may remember that Clint Smith was the editor of the anthology of African American poetry many of us read about two years ago. Davalene Cooper will lead our discussion.

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 October meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84810976357?>

***An Event from Massachusetts Interfaith Power and Light: Love. Earth. Justice: A Multifaith Service of Prayer, Celebration, and***

***Resolve*** — Sunday, October 16, from 2:00- 5:00 p.m. at First Unitarian Church of Worcester, 90 Main Street, Worcester and on line. Celebrate creation and community, mourn all we have lost, and call each other to faithful action. The event will open with worship. Workshops will teach key skills of climate action and resilience. [RSVP here](#). Please contact Miriam at [mcohen@massipl.org](mailto:mcohen@massipl.org) with any questions.

***Volunteers Still Needed to Help Feed the Hungry —***

**As you may know, we are part of an effort on the South Shore to provide meals to Father Bill's shelter in Quincy. We staff 6 cooking/serving teams that provide meals throughout the year. Each team is assigned 4 dates to cook and serve. One of our teams needs one more cook. This team makes lasagna on the second Thursday in September, December, March, and June. If you would like to join this team, please contact Davalene Cooper, [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net).**

We at Old Ship are part of a community wide interfaith effort to provide **six** lunches twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to the Anderson Veterans Home on Fort Hill Street in Hingham. Lunch consists of a deli-meat sandwich, chips, fresh fruit, cookie, and water or juice. If you would like to be a part of this effort, by agreeing to provide lunch for one or two days during the year, please contact [Davalene Cooper](#) at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) for the sign up link.

**Hingham Food Pantry** — We are again 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 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, Dried Fruit, Nuts, 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.

**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.

## **The Old Ship Calendar**

The Old Ship Church calendar is available on



our website by clicking [here](#).

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

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

## Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, October 4, 7:00 p.m. Parlor
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, October 6, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; Email [Diane Jordan](#) for the Zoom Link
- **Deacons Meeting** - Tuesday, October 5, 7:00 PM

## 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](https://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](https://smile.amazon.com) to support your favorite charity.



## Happy Fall from your friends at Old Ship Church!

First Parish, Old Ship Church | 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043

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