

First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

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

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

December 2021 Newsletter

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Deadline for January newsletter: Tuesday, Dec. 21, 2021

Worship: 10:30 a.m. - Multi-platform: In-person in our Old Ship Meeting House and on Zoom

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

Click here to join Sunday Worship!

Sunday, Dec. 5

As we near the eighth day of Hanukkah, Ken's sermon will be "The Ninth Candle." What is the purpose of that apparently "extra" candle on a Hanukkah menorah? And what lesson might that ninth candle offer for our lives?



Sunday, Dec. 12

Ken's sermon will be "Jesus and the Christmas Magician." For the "Time for All Ages" Ken will once again be sharing his story, "The Christmas Magician". In his sermon: What could Jesus possibly have in common with the fictional Christmas Magician?

Sunday, Dec. 19

This is the Sunday for our annual Christmas Pageant, this year a hybrid pageant! Whether we will be in the Meeting House or at home, we have the opportunity to be a star or an angel or a shepherd or a wise one – or perhaps an animal in the stable. As always, Ken will share a UU re-telling of the nativity story as our annual tableau unfolds.

Friday, Dec. 24 - Christmas Eve

3:00 p.m. Carol sing outside the Meeting House! (masked please) Though, sadly, for the sake of Covid safety, we are not planning to gather

inside the Meeting House for Christmas Eve, we *are* invited to gather outside with Ken at 3:00 on Christmas Eve to sing familiar Christmas carols and songs. Everyone (of course!) invited!

5:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service only on Zoom

(check upcoming Old Ship weekly updates for the Zoom link)
Since it would likely not be wise to fill the Meeting House with our usual almost 400 souls during these pandemic times, our current plan is that we will enjoy our Christmas Eve service on Zoom – though this year the choir and brass choir will be in the Meeting House, along with Ken and a few other participants in the service. We'll be invited to sing traditional carols at home in full voice, to hear traditional and not-so-traditional readings, to listen to a story and message from Ken Read-Brown, and of course to enjoy the beautiful Christmas music led by Christopher Nickelson-Mann.

All this said – watch our weekly updates for any changes in Christmas Eve attendance plans.

Sunday, Dec. 26

This will be our annual service of shared readings and reflections. It will be held, as on all Sundays this fall, in the Meeting House and on Zoom. We are invited to bring a poem or other reading to share, some thought that meets the season and the approaching New Year... and our lives. Ken will lead the service.

Seasonal Vespers – Wednesdays, Dec. 1, 8, 15, and 22, 6:30 p.m.

We are invited to gather for just over half an hour in the Meeting House (or to attend on Zoom) for our annual Vespers services. During this sometimes hectic season, we can share a time of quiet, readings, and music in a gently lit Meeting House. Here is the Zoom link:

https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89570050 479



VESPERS AT OLD SHIP CHURCH

107 main street hingham, Ma. 6:30 Wednesdays

Imagine stepping back into 1681. A candlelit church, vaulting timbers hundreds of years old, and a half hour of listening and being. We hear

words of peace and comfort, music that lifts us, and silences that invite our inner thoughts to come forward as we listen to the settlings of this

Join us for this time of beauty and peace.



from the minister's desk Musing

There is plenty to stoke our worries these days nationally and globally (not least, the new virus variant, omicron). Well, we could soak ourselves in worry, which is easy enough to do, by watching or

reading more news than we really need. Or... in contrast to the despair that the front page of our newspaper or top of our news feed too often offers, the season now upon us offers us opportunities to tap reservoirs of hope through age-old rituals:

Each night of Hanukkah, lighting one additional candle might remind us that we can be among those bringing a little more light to a troubled world.

Approaching solstice might remind us that when all seems darkest, the dark itself gives birth to renewed light, as the world ever turns toward the morning.

Each week of Advent might remind us that we can be among those who share a little more joy, hope, peace, and love with those in our ever-widening circles of care and concern.

And Christmas might remind us of one more thing that we well know: that the most important gifts are not the ones wrapped under the tree, but gifts of the heart that can bring healing to a dear one or to the next person to whom we wish a Merry Christmas... and say it from the heart to the heart.

With all this in mind and heart, I invite us, during these weeks that will do their best to rush us along, to take our time and move at our own pace... to be present to the night sky and the dawning sun... to be present to one another... to be attentive to whispers of hope and love louder than any breathless "breaking news" of the day.

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

<u>Scam alert</u>: Once again, I remind you that I would never send an email asking you for a favor and telling you not to call me. These are scams by someone preying on kind and generous souls like you; if you were to respond, you would be asked to lay out money that you will never see again. <u>You may always call me to check out such an email-</u> or of course for any other reason you'd like to call.



Community Interfaith Thanksgiving Service

Ken Read-Brown was the preacher this year for this annual service - a tradition of over 100 years; and many other religious leaders from Jewish, Christian, and

Unitarian Universalist congregations participated. Though the service was on Zoom only (and soon to be posted to our Old Ship Church YouTube site) the participants, including our choir, were in the Meeting House. Deacon Joseph Harrington, from St. Paul's Church, took some wonderful photos of the evening. Here are a few, to give you a taste of this evening of Thanksgiving shared across our varied traditions and many





congregations.





Board of Trustees December Newsletter

Greetings everyone,

November has been another busy and exciting month at Old Ship. The Board of Trustees held a



meeting of the Parish on November 3rd to vote on selling the Parish House. There was participation from 62 voting members, both remotely and in person. After discussion of the warrant article, the vote was passed with 52 in favor, 9 not in favor and 1 abstaining. The Parish House Management committee will be updating the Board monthly and will communicate with the congregation about activity related to the sale on a regular basis.

In the November Board meeting, two committee chairs attended to provide updates to the Board. Both committee reports demonstrated how active and committed the committee members are to the mission of their committees and to Old Ship. Kate Doyle and the Religious Education interim consultant, Deb Weiner, reported to the Board regarding the RE retreat that had been held. Deb will be sending a written report for review as well. Davalene Cooper attended the Board meeting to provide an update about the Social Justice Council activities.

Now that Old Ship is holding multi-platform meetings, it has been recommended that some changes be made to the Old Ship bylaws regarding multi-platform meetings. Additionally, there have been recommendations to broaden the criteria of financial contribution to Old Ship in order to ensure more inclusion of members when there is a vote. Davalene explained the potential amendments to the by-laws. These will be reviewed by the Board in early 2022, with a plan to include for a congregation vote at the annual meeting in May.

Previously, the Building and Grounds committee discussed with the Board the requirement to meet town regulations regarding placement of signs on the Old Ship property. The Board reviewed and approved a <u>signage policy for Old Ship</u> which incorporate the regulations of the town of Hingham. Anyone who would like to post a sign on the Old Ship property will need to submit a request to the Board of Trustees regarding the content and purpose of the sign. Lisa, our Office Administrator. will review each request to ensure the regulations about size, shape, location and duration of placement are met.

The big news for all of us is that Ken is retiring as minister at the end of July

2022. After the holidays, the Board will begin the process of recruiting an Interim Minister. This will happen with the direction and support of the Transitions Coordinator at UUA. In conjunction with this process, the Board will develop a process to review and renew the vision and mission of Old Ship. We will be reaching out to everyone in the congregation to participate in creating our new Old Ship vision.

I am grateful for this loving community and wish all of you a peaceful and happy holiday season.

Ginny Perelson President, Old Ship, Board of Trustees she/her/hers



Nurturing Community

Among Us

Jim Robinson has recently moved to the Pat Roche Hospice Home, here on Turkey Hill in Hingham. We send healing thoughts to Jim and

to his two sons, David and Allan.

Mary Sofis has moved back to the assisted living facility where she and Ernie had been living up until this past summer. Here is the address:

Mary Sofis
The Residence at Watertown Square
20 Summer Street, Apt. 210
Watertown, MA 02472

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,

The Old Ship Christmas Eve service is around the corner and plans are underway for lots of exciting and beautiful music! We will hear selections from the Old Ship Choir, our wonderful vocal soloists, and a fantastic brass quintet. As is our tradition, the evening will culminate with the singing of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. If you are interested in singing with the choir on Christmas Eve, let me know -- we would be happy to have you! Please note that we are currently asking all inperson singers to be vaccinated, masked, and distanced. We look forward to sharing our music with you and bringing some holiday spirit and joy. Wishing you and yours the best for Happy Holidays!

Musically Yours, Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

A note from Elizabeth Torrey

Spirit of the North, spirit of earth of night time and winter:

Be with us in the darkness, in the time of gestation.

Ground us in the wisdom of the changing seasons as we celebrate the spiraling journey of our lives.

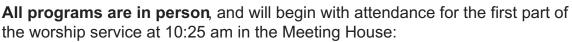
- Joan Goodwin



Children's Religious Education

Nursery care for the very young is provided each week in the Parish House nursery.

Sunday morning programs:



- 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) This is a family favorite and important class for this age group.
- Interim Work with Deb Weiner, Transitional Religious Education Consultant

Please register for the 2021-2022 year at oldshipchurch.org

Annual Post Merrie Market Pajama Day! Sunday, Dec 5

Come Join Us for our Annual Post Merry Market Pajama Day viewing of "Elf". Because of Covid-19 we will not be serving pancakes but will have joy and merry and cheer!!! Come straight to the Fellowship Hall, children and youth – and the young at heart! Feel free to show up super cozy- in your PJ's if you'd like.

Religious Education Coordinator

We are intending to hire a 10 hour per week religious education coordinator for the year. If you or anyone you know might be interested, please let us know!

For more information

Please see Breeze (oldshipchurch.breezechms.com), <u>oldshipchurch.org</u>, upcoming emails or email dre@oldshipchurch.org. Thank you!

Life Learning Offerings

click here to see our <u>2021-2022 Life Learning</u> <u>brochure</u>

Ongoing groups and gatherings click here to see our 2021-2022 Life Learning brochure



Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. So our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, December 7, at 7:00 p.m. Given the particular danger of virus spread through singing, we will once again gather on Zoom. Email Ken with any questions about Ceilidh or for the Zoom link to attend: oldshipkrb@gmail.com.

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 parlor and on Zoom) through meditation and conversation as we continue to read from Pema Chodron's book "Welcoming the Unwelcome." On alternate Sundays members of the group lead the conversation (on Zoom only) 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 of each month – our next gathering will be December 12. Contact Ralph Brown or Rich Elliott for

information and, since we are meeting for the time being still on Zoom, for the link.

Women's Breakfast and Conversation—Meets on the *fourth* Sunday morning of each month in person and Zoom. The December meeting will meet the third Sunday, December 19th from 8:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. Open to all the women of the church. If you would like to attend, you may click here for the Zoom link or send an email to Janice McPhillips and she will send you the Zoom invitation for the December's meeting. We gather in the parlor to share our lives and enjoy one another's company. Conversations are confidential and, again, all are welcome!

Sacred Texts Meditation Group – 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. Email Ken Read-Brown for information and to be added to the email list and to receive the Zoom link for our gatherings on December 9 and 16 (third Thursday this month because of the Christmas holiday).

Life Learning: Looking Ahead

The Bhagavad Gita and the Meaning of Our Lives

six sessions, Wednesdays, beginning Jan. 5; 1:00 in person and 7:00 on Zoom. led by Ken Read-Brown

The classic Hindu text the *Bhagavad Gita* has influenced and inspired millions – including our minister! The many layers of meaning include resources that can help us plumb the meanings of our lives and plot the directions of our lives. A companion book for the class will be *The Great Work of Your Life: A Guide for The Journey to Your True Calling*, by Stephen Cope. For more information, including recommendations of *Gita* translations, to sign up and for the Zoom link for the evening sessions, contact Ken, 781-635-2060 or oldshipkrb@qmail.com.

MERRIE MARKET THIS SATURDAY! DECEMBER 4, 9AM - 2PM

We are so excited for Merrie Market this Saturday! The elves will be working all week to transform Fellowship Hall into a festive holiday bazaar. A big thank you to all of the movers who came to move



boxes from the attic and second floor on Sunday! Your help was greatly appreciated. A big thank you to Mark as well for getting the hall set up and putting up with us and our rearranging of the tables!

We still need volunteers to cover shifts at our tables. Shift times are either 8:30am - 11:30am, or 11:30am - 2:30pm (we arrive a little early to make sure things look good and stay a little after to help put things away). This is a great time to join in community with your Old Ship friends and share in the fun and laughter. Those who have volunteered before know how much fun we have! If you haven't volunteered before, please come and find out! Just contact Diane or Trish by phone or email to sign up.

Many thanks from your ever so grateful Merrie Market co-chairs, Diane Jordan 617-308-7179, and Trish McAleer 781-738-9493.



Old Ship Wreaths will be available at Merrie Market!!



Other December Events:

Old Ship Gingerbread House Making!

Saturday, December 11 4:00 - 7:00 PM

Bring a kit or premade gingerbread. We will supply icing, chili cornbread and Christmas music!!!

Please see <u>attached flye</u>r for more information

25th Annual Winter Solstice Poetry and Song Evening

Tuesday, December 21, 6:45 PM via ZOOM

This season's Crossing Time is the Winter Solstice - the longest night of the year which heralds the return of light.



Leave the busyness of the holiday rush, come and share and replenish creative energy. Bring a poem to read about hope or winter's gifts perhaps, or imply come and listen. Our presence together will "lighten the heart and the darkness" (said Clarissa Pinkola Estes).

Music will be provided by Christopher Nickelson-Mann, Jeremy Harmon, Heather Nolasco, and Rich Jensen.

All are warmly invited. Here's the Zoom link: https://zoom.us/j/93076328788

Questions? Elizabeth Torrey (781-749-0543)

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

December Special Plate Collection — Our special plate collection for December is the Guest at Your Table (GAYT) Program, which began on November 21 and will continue through December 31. As a reminder, this is our



continue through December 31. As a reminder, this is our major fundraising effort for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC). The theme

of this year's program is "Now is the Time for Courageous Change." The goal of a world free from oppression, where all can realize their full human rights, is a big task! We need big ideas and bold change so we can fundamentally transform our world.

Through GAYT, we will explore how UUSC is doing this work with its partners in ways that change the world. We are invited to welcome a guest, who represents a UUSC partner organization, to our family's table over the next few weeks. These guests will inform us about critical human rights issues around the world and help us understand how our donations are making a difference in the lives of those served through UUSC partner organizations. Their stories will offer inspiration and guidance on the path toward justice.

You may choose to physically welcome this guest through the use of a GAYT box, which is available at the Meeting House. Each week, in our Tuesday email from Old Ship, we will focus on one of the guests featured in this year's Stories of Hope booklet, which can be downloaded or viewed at Stories-of-Hope-2021-2022.pdf (uusc.org). Donations of \$150 or more are eligible to be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock. To donate on the Old Ship website, wait until December 1st and then use the drop down menu to donate to the outreach offering for UUSC. (Until December 1, the outreach offering is for Free., our November outreach recipient). To donate directly to UUSC, please go to uusc.org/givetoguest, and be sure to indicate you are part of Old Ship Church in Hingham. Questions? Contact Davalene Cooper.

UUSC Human Rights Celebration — Everyone at Old Ship is invited to the UUSC Human Rights Celebration on Thursday, December 9, at 7 p.m. on Zoom. The evening will feature Isabel Wilkerson, author of *The Warmth of Other Suns* and *Caste: The Origins of Our Discontents*. There also will be musical entertainment and perhaps a few surprises. For more information, and to register for the event, go to UUSC's Human Rights Leadership Celebration - Campaign. While donations are welcomed, they are not required, especially if you are giving to the December Guest at Your Table Program. This should be a wonderful evening to celebrate UUSC work and human rights!

Opportunity for Holiday Shopping and Supporting Artists of Color –The SJC invites you to an (on-line) Arts and Crafts Fair to support artists of color in this difficult Covid year and jump start your holiday shopping for unique gifts. The UUUM (Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry), the social justice organization based in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston, works to support Artists of Color in their area through their Artist Amplification Project. Demonstrating the Urban Ministry's commitment to support and strengthen Roxbury commerce in meaningful ways, addressing economic and racial justice, they developed an online Artist Directory, featuring 24 artists and their work. Each artist has works for sale, through their own websites or through ETSY (the e-commerce platform for artisans and small businesses). You can shop online through the 2021 Artists of Color Directory, at 7b9fdf 5a02df9a697648f090303a9ec543b644.pdf(filesusr.com). Help support these amazing artists by purchasing a creative piece of jewelry, pottery, poetry, children's books, paintings, textiles, clothing, or other art.

Hingham Food Pantry — We are collecting non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food for the Hingham Food Pantry as part of our Sunday morning worship service. There is a basket in the vestibule for donations. Donations may also be left in the bins in the vestibule of the Parish House (front door) anytime the office is open. *Donations may also be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop (large bin at the front of the store).* Although all donations are appreciated, the food pantry reports that the following items are most needed at this time:

black tea (in bags), oatmeal (in packets), cranberry sauce, stuffing, gravy, rice side dishes, canned fruit, cookies, granola or cereal bars, and 1 or 2 pound bags of sugar (larger sizes are not needed). Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043.

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will next meet on Sunday, January 16, on Zoom, at 7 p.m. We will be discussing Nicole Chung's memoir, "All You Can Ever Know" (2018). Patti Smith will be leading our discussion. For more information or if you have questions, contact Davalene Cooper. 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 January meeting: https://zoom.us/j/95111955927?pwd=aVBMT1dFamQ3RkR5R1NxL0dXUENNQT09.

Father Bill's Cooking Teams — Correction from last month's listing of Father Bill's Cooking Teams: Team 6 includes Pia Young and Lisa Sawyer (team leaders), Allan Greenberg, Barbara Ganem, Fan Leonard, and Davalene Cooper. We apologize for the error.

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.

Thank You Old Ship Elves!!

We did it! We adopted 10 families without permanent housing for the holidays--and we appreciate your generosity and your commitment to making the holidays brighter for families being served by the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore.



Just a reminder about logistics for bringing the gifts to Old Ship. Do not bring them until after Merrie Market (we don't want any unintended sales!). If you bring them to church on December 5 or 12, Carol Valentine will take them and put them in the Nursery at the Parish House. During the week, gifts can be dropped off at the Parish House during normal business hours, which is 9-1 Monday through Friday. If none of that works, call or email me, Davalene Cooper, at 781-749-0790,

or <u>davalenecooper@verizon.net</u> and we will make other arrangements,

including dropping gifts off at my home if that is helpful.

Again, thanks for all the elf behavior that is in the air at Old Ship!



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

- Finance Committee Meeting Tuesday, November 30, 7:00 p.m.
- Board of Trustees Thursday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.
- Welcoming Congregation Committee for the 21st Century Thursday, December 9, 7:00 p.m.

The Welcoming Congregation Committee Meeting

Thur. Dec. 9th 7pm (Nursery & Zoom)

Topics for discussion are:

- Are you mis-gendering without even knowing it?
- Does saying MY pronoun really matter?
- What do you want WCC to do?
- Possible book group.
- Service with the Youth in March.

It would be helpful if you would let us know if you are planning on attending either in-person or on Zoom.

If you have questions, please call 781-706-6316 or email Abby.



Pronouns are more important.

"Cisgender people who decline to share their pronouns on the basis that it is obvious, or who forget to share a pronoun and then later say that it's ok for people to guess the "obvious" pronoun, can be invited to reflect on the privilege connected to being someone who is never called the wrong pronoun because strangers always guess right." (author unknown)

Saying your pronouns is small and easy part of being an ally to the LGBTQ+, especially those who are non-binary and/or transgender.

By using your pronouns at church, matters more than you think. It allows



everyone who hears them, to know you are accepting and that our church is a safe place. It not just for transgender and/or non-binary person, it's also for their family and friends.

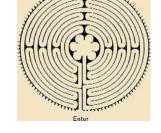
Our minister, Ken, understands this. It is why pronouns are listed in the Sunday bulletin and why he states them during the service.

December 1st - World AIDS Day. It has not gone away just because it's not on the news every day.

Save the Date!

Candlelight Sound Meditations at the Labyrinth Saturday, January 1, 2022 5:00 PM

The Labyrinth committee and the Bodysong musicians will offer Candlelight Sound Meditations at the Labyrinth this winter. The first one on Saturday January 1 from 5:00-



6:30, to celebrate New Beginnings and walk together into the New Year! Please bring your face mask. For more information please email or call<u>Santjes</u>
Oomen at 508-228-9939

SWIM 2021 Registration open

SWIM is a week (December 27 – January 1) of virtual UU fun, fellowship and growth with workshops, concerts and special events. SWIM is an intentional, inter-generational community of Unitarian Universalists and friends, including awesome people like YOU! We normally gather in South Florida in December but will again meet virtually in 2021. For further information and to register, visit SWIMUU.org"



Holiday Shopping and Amazon Smile:

Have you started your holiday shopping? Are you shopping on Amazon? Please shop

at <u>smile.amazon.com</u> 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 <u>smile.amazon.com</u> to support your favorite charity.

from your friends at Old Ship Church!

