

First Parish, Hingham Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist 107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043 (781) 749-1679 office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

January 2023 Newsletter

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Deadline for February's Newsletter: Tuesday, January 24, 2023

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

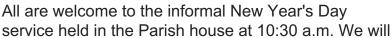
(masks and vaccinations are strongly urged)

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

Sunday, January 1st Service is NOT on Zoom

Click here to join Sunday Worship!

January 1st Service Fellowship Hall only No Zoom 10:30 a.m.





have a short service and then share readings with one another. Please bring a poem, short reading, or just thoughts to share about the New Year. Refreshments will follow the service. If you have any questions, please email Karen Churchill at <u>xplasticfishx@yahoo.com</u>.

A Note from Erin

In the Letter From the Birmingham Jail Dr.

Martin Luther King, Jr. wrote: "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere." Justice which is the practice of creating the common good is our worship theme for the month. Here are some questions I'm thinking about as I prep for the month ahead, perhaps they resonate with you:



What is your experience of justice in your life? What does the common good look or feel like? How do you contribute to the work of justice and the common good? What inspires you to work for justice? How have you witnessed others around you create the common good?

Peace, Erin

Old Ship Board of Trustees

Wishing you all peace, love and happiness in 2023!

The Board of Trustees

You are Invited! New Years Celebration: Fire Jumping & Flying Wish Paper January 8th. Fellowship Hour (Immediately After Service) All Ages

Our youth members and our RE(Religious Education) Team are inviting the entire congregation to an Ancient, and Contemporary, New Years Ritual and Tradition: Fire jumping and Flying Wish Paper.

This event has means a lot to our youth members, related to Old Ship, and they'd like to share it again with everyone, youngest to oldest among us! We will have good, safe, intentional, meaningful, collaborative, heartfelt, creative, fun to bring in our New Year.

We will have a fire, a helpful group of experienced jumpers, ,A Flying Wish Paper table, art, and hot chocolate. See you on January 8th !







SUNDAY FLOWERS DONOR

Interested in being a donor for our Sunday flowers? January 15 & 22 are available. You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact <u>Sharon Prehn</u> (prehn@verizon.net or 781-925-0101).



Fellowship Hour & Snacks:

We are having food for coffee hour! <u>Last names</u> <u>beginning A-H are asked to bring snacks this</u> <u>Sunday, January 1st.</u> Some type of finger or toothpick food that can be placed on a napkin is best. We don't have volunteers to hand wash dishes and are going to keep things simple. Please leave your food item on the table in the Fellowship Hall ready to go. Food can be left in it's box or served on a paper plate. Thanks everyone!



Since we don't have a working dishwasher or volunteers to hand wash dishes, we encourage bringing your own travel mug for coffee hour. Paper cups will also be available.

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 Joan Wilson Erin Splaine

Musical Notes Dear Old Ship,

A big thank you to everyone involved in helping make the music for Christmas Eve fantastic! I hope we continue such wonderful music-making in 2023 and beyond. Happy New Year to you and yours!



Musically, Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

And now let us welcome the new year full of things that have never been

Rainer Maria Rilka (1875-1926) Austrian Poet and Novelist



The new year has started for moving and growing The child's laugh within and through the adult tears, Enjoy and incomprehension at the singing years Pushes us into fresh life, new knowing.

Move into the year and the new time's turning Open and vulnerable and loving and steady

Madeleine L'Engle (1929-2018) American Author and Poet

I welcome your responses elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com

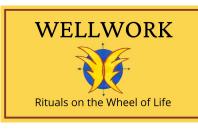
On The Path

Four Wednesdays, Jan. 4 – 25, 7:00 p.m., Zoom Susan Trausch, John Stobierski What religious traditions shaped your beliefs as a child? What shapes them today? What wisdom did you keep from long-ago teachings? What did you discard? What answers are you seeking as you age? We'll start our conversations with readings from Richard Rohr's Falling Upward — Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life. Participants may also explore National Public Radio's archived "This I Believe" series, in which people, famous and unknown, spoke their spiritual truth. We hope this inspires participants to write their own "This I Believe" statements and, if they wish, to share them in our final class. For information, contact <u>Susan</u> or <u>John</u>.



Wellwork Workshop Saturday, January 7, 2023 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm

Hosted by Old Ship member Santjes Oomen and team, WellWork is a 4-hour workshop that uses systemic and shamanic rituals together



with Santjes' 81 Found in Transition images to allow insights and inspire transformation. Saturday January 7, 2023 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm on the Labyrinth. Registration is required. More info at <u>www.wellwork.info</u>

Please mark your calendar and save the date for: The First Annual Soup Kitchen Dinner! Old Ship Parish's Fellowship Hall Saturday, January 14, 5:30 p.m. - ?



Please bring to share a pot of soup or great bread, or a salad, or cookies (finger held desserts). The kitchen has 4 burners, a microwave, and a couple of crock pots (somewhere). If someone wants to bring any sort of non alcoholic drinks- that would be nice.

Let's celebrate the New Year together . We'll will use paper cups, paper bowls, and paper place for easy clean up! Let's have some fun!

The Soup Kitchen Committee

Old Ship Church Labyrinth Meditation Walk Sunday, January 22nd 5:00 pm

> Gratitude for the Labyrinth 1999-2023

Old Ship Church extends an invitation to all who want to express gratitude for the experience of the labyrinth for almost a quarter of a century, to attend the last labyrinth walk as a Sound Meditation to be led by wholistic health practitioner and artist, Santjes Oomen and her husband, Peter Lochtefeld, artisan, along with their circle of musicians on Sunday, January 22, 2023 at



5pm at the Old Ship Parish House, 107 Main Street, Hingham. Old Ship Church has just entered a Purchase and Sale Agreement thereby no longer having access to the labyrinth.

There are many individuals to thank for the existence and giving life to the labyrinth. Foremost is Mary Niles, now deceased, whose vision was translated into a \$100,000 millennial gift to Old Ship Church and its wider community for its installation in Fellowship Hall. Others include Labyrinth Committee members over the decades, Ding Wilding Smith, Janice McPhillips, Karen Churchill, Jennifer Burtner, Joan Drescher, Lee Rumsey, Mary Thomas. Bernie Gregoire, who personally supervised the dangerous removal of the vinyl floor tiles requiring 24 hr. ventilation, during the hot humid days of August, 1999, as well as hosting the labyrinth walks for over 10 years before his death, he was irreplaceable. Elizabeth Torrey's vision of a Labyrinth Dance Choir was realized with weekly sessions over many years by Nikki Hu, choreographer, dancer and teacher, along with original music by Guy Van Duser, composer, teacher and widely known performing guitarist.

Past events such as the Peace Labyrinth after 9/11, incanting prayers of world religions, walking while reciting the poetry of Rumi, Elizabeth Torrey's Solstice Poetry readings combined with the labyrinth walks, cello accompaniment by Jesse Flaherty, and drumming with Dawna Hammers - all were offered so generously through the years. Ever ready and steadfast have been administrative assistants, Peggy Ketcham, Julianna Dunn and Lisa Beck. Sextons, Mark and Crissi Curran has been unconditional in their superb preparations for the labyrinth walks over more than two decades.

Deep thanks are due to photographers Michael Weymouth, Trish and Jennifer Burtner for their sensitive portrayals of the Old Ship Labyrinth. They were able to capture the labyrinth's beauty through floor angles and in candlelight, giving unhurried time and attention as volunteers.

We hold these treasures of the past, as ever present rich resources of memory, with deep gratitude.

Mary Thomas, Facilitator

Please join us Sunday, January 22nd, 5pm. Old Ship Parish House. 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA. 02043. All are welcome. Admission is free.

The Listening Circles To Continue

Thank you to all who have attended a Listening Circle. We have five/5 more Listening Circles lined up and we hope you will chose one and come sit in circle with other Old Shippers.

The available dates are: Today Wednesday Dec. 28 at 2.30. Zoom only. If you would like to attend this circle please contact richelliott56@gmail.com. Saturday January 7 at 1pm in the Parlor Saturday January 7 at 4pm in the Parlor Sunday January 8 at 12 in the Nursery Monday January 23 at 7pm in the Parlor.

Please sign up please using this link: Listening Circle Sign Up or Call Diane Elliott: 781-264-6234

Please know that in doing this you are contributing to the interim work for our congregation.

Yours in Peace.

The Transitional Ministry Committee: Diane Elliott, Michael Jordan, Loraine Varney-Riggs, Chris Sullivan, Janet Asnes and Paul Stone.

Welcoming Congregation Discussion Wed Jan 25th 7pm on Zoom

Topic - Where Does Your Hope and Strength Come From?

It's a New Year, let's come together to share where we find hope for LGBTQ+ community. Is it in church, friends, LGBTQ+ organizations or

groups, web sites, etc. Sharing where your hope comes from is like giving a gift to someone. Bring your gifts to share so they may strengthen our bonds with one another. Strength and hope will guide us through those moments of disrespect, etc.

Welcoming Congregation Discussion Zoom Link

Days of Importance -No Name Calling Week Jan 16-20, 2023

No Name-Calling Week is observed during the third week of January to educate students, teachers, and the public on the harms of name-calling. This year, it takes place from January 16 to 20. People have been called unpleasant names for their weight, height, intelligence, sexual orientation, and other things they have little or no control over. While some consider name-calling harmless fun, victims

of such names generally feel insecure, ashamed, and bullied, to extents that



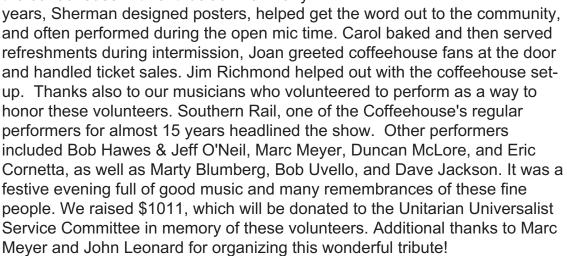




Welcoming Congregation

cause them to lose their self-esteem, feel unwanted in their immediate environments, and suffer emotional distress. Name-calling inflicts psychological injuries on victims and forces some of them into seclusion or to consider suicide.

Update on the November 19th Memorial Coffeehouse for Jim Watson, Sherman Whipple, Carol Schuler, Jim Richmond, and Joan Cellini: Many thanks to all those who attended the Memorial Coffeehouse for the long time volunteers who passed away during the past few months. Jim Watson coordinated the coffeehouse with enthusiasm for many



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



Children & Youth Religious Education

January 1st No Class.

While attendance has been light this year, the RE Committee is committed to providing a meaningful experience for all who come. This fall we are focusing on being outside together, exploring nature through our UU faith lens.



It's an exciting time to be part of RE at Old Ship and we need YOU.....your time....your thoughts....your commitment to creating a joyful, spiritual space in our congregation for our children to feel connected to one another and Unitarian Universalism. We are looking for



volunteers to be on the committee and/or to be available on Sunday mornings. Please reach out to anyone on the committee if you are interested in taking part in laying the foundation for a meaningful and engaging multi-age community for our children and youth.

Janet Asnes, Maureen Butler, Susan Carrillo, Diane Elliott, Lauren Gadot, Morgan Morales

In January we will be focusing on:

• re-reviewing the Interim DRE reports from the last 2 years and are discussing the best way to distribute this information to everyone.

- updating our Safe Congregation policies and practices
- continuing our commitment to providing 80 lunches to Father Bill's monthly
- the possibility of a Youth Advisor

• RE's part in the Interim Ministry work we are doing as an entire congregation

If you have any questions or would like to help with RE, please feel free to reach out to

any of us. We love to talk about this wonderful part of our ministry at Old Ship.

Life Learning Offerings

click here to see our<u>2022-2023 Life Learning Web</u> Page



Ongoing groups and gatherings

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. Currently we are reading <u>Zen Mind</u>, <u>Beginner's Mind</u> by Shunryu Suzuki. Newcomers warmly welcomed. No experience with Buddhism necessary. For questions and Zoom link, email. <u>Lisa Sawyer</u>.

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gatherings: Thursdays, January 12th & 26th 4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Zoom Second and fourth Thursday afternoons

Each session will have a reading, a 15-minute meditation, and exploration of one chapter from the Tao Te Ching, including its meaning to each of us, as well as related writings, poetry or art. Newcomers are welcome. Gatherings will be Zoom only. For information and the Zoom link, contact <u>Rich Elliott.</u>.

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – our next gathering will be **January 8th**–in person and on Zoom. Contact Ralph Brown (<u>ralph.e.brown@gmail.com</u>) or Rich Elliott (<u>richelliott56@gmail.com</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. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, January 22nd**. Open to all the women of the church. If you would like to attend, send an email to <u>Janice McPhillips</u> or go to: <u>https://zoom.us/j/92656862826?pwd=cGZwOHVzR0lpLzdPQ2ZmVnNjYVZBUT09</u> 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, January 3rd, 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:<u>https://zoom.us/j/92888235659?</u> pwd=M3NEcVNibjdqM1RvUHhTUm9aN21Edz09

Fiber Funship

We will meet Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, in the parlor. For info contact<u>Diane</u> <u>Elliott</u> or <u>Carol Valentine</u>.

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

Next Meeting is Saturday, January 21, 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 <u>davalenecooper@verizon.net</u>, for the Zoom link. All are welcome!



January's Special Plate Collection is for Renewal House— Old Ship has supported Renewal House, one of the programs of the UU Urban Ministry for many years. As a reminder, here is the description of Renewal House from the UUUM website:

Renewal House is a domestic violence shelter for individuals and families who are fleeing violence or abuse. Since 1980, Renewal House has provided temporary emergency shelter and advocacy services to more than 1,000 individuals and families escaping domestic violence. Renewal House was one of the first domestic violence shelters in the state to provide shelter for male survivors as well as female, and is sought out by other agencies for its expertise in attending to the spiritual needs of survivors. Renewal House works closely with other programs that serve the LGBTQ communities, as well as those that serve elders and individuals with disabilities to provide the best support we can to these underserved populations

This is important work, and it deepens our connection to the UU Urban Ministry and its programs. You may make your donation <u>online</u> through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to Renewal House or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with Renewal House designated on the memo line. We will indicate in the weekly email from the office the specific Sunday when the plate during the service will be donated to Renewal House. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Thanks to all who contributed to our October special plate in support of the UU the Vote program. We donated \$1725.45 to this important program in support

of our Fifth Unitarian Universalist principle.

New Games and Other Supplies Needed for Father Bill's Shelter in

Quincy: Father Bill's is seeking wintertime activity supplies for guests. Donations of NEW board games (all types, scrabble, monopoly, chess, etc.), NEW coloring books and NEW coloring supplies would be gratefully appreciated. You may drop off any donations at Father Bill's any day before 11 or between 1-3pm. Address: 38 Broad Street, Quincy (just off Rt.3A behind the Quincy Police Station).

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Book Group meeting on January 15 at 7 p.m. on Zoom: We will be discussing Denise K. Lajimodiere's *Stringing Rosaries: The History, the Unforgivable, and the Healing of Northern Plains American Indian Boarding School Survivors.* This book is based on interviews with 16 survivors of U.S. government boarding schools for indigenous children. These schools were designed to destroy native cultures and assimilate the children into the broader white culture. Davalene Cooper will lead our discussion. 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 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 January

meeting: https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84810976357.

Hingham Food Pantry — We collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry each week. There is a basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House and in the Parish 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: Canned Vegetables, Cookies, Pasta Sauce, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Spaghetti, Dried Fruit, Nuts, and 1 lb. bags of Granulated Sugar (nothing larger please). Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043.

Upcoming Events at the UU Urban Ministry:

Community Conversations: Resolving to do Better: Banks and Black-owned Business Tuesday, January 10th, 6:00pm - 7:00pm | <u>Event Webpage</u>. Join UUUM and its guest, Mark Watson, to discuss ways to support Banks and Black-owned Business Capital. This is a Zoom event.

The Ties That Bind: A concert honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Monday, January 16th, 3:00pm | <u>Event Webpage</u> Opera unMet, led by founder Marshall Hughes, brings a soul-stirring performance. If you have heard Marshall perform before, you know this show is not to be missed! The concert will be followed by refreshments and optional story circle. This is an in person event.

"30 Days of Love--Spiritual Nourishment for the Long Haul" Side With Love Campaign from January 16 to February 14, 2023: This year's 30 Days of Love is a gift to our whole UU community: a love letter, a warm hug, a spiritual balm for all of the individuals, families, religious professionals, partners and communities that embody our values and work for justice and liberation year round. Each week will feature a spiritual theme overlapping with one of Side With Love's intersectional justice priorities, and we'll share an array of offerings to help nourish your spirit and give gratitude and affirmation.

WEEK 1 (January 16-22): Interdependence :: Democracy & Electoral Justice

WEEK 2 (January 23-29): **Embodiment :: LGBTQIA+, Gender & Reproductive Justice**

WEEK 3 (January 30 - February 5): **Resilience :: Climate Justice** WEEK 4 (February 6-12): **Healing :: Decriminalization** BONUS DAYS (February 13-14): **Blessings :: Liberatory Intersections** To sign up, go to <u>Subscribe — Side With Love</u>.

Thanks for Supporting Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore

(FHSS): Thanks to everyone who participated in our two major projects supporting the FHSS: the Holiday Gift Program and the Annual Holiday Dinner. Both were incredibly successful. We delivered over 126 gifts to FHSS for distribution to the 9 families we adopted. This was the first time since Covid that FHSS has been able to have the dinner. Special thanks to Fresh Market in the Hingham Shipyard for donating the ham for the dinner and to Brenda Black for organizing the food. Thanks also to our many volunteers who helped prepare and serve the food and then to clean up the kitchen and Fellowship Hall, including Asher Baynes, Bonnie Bayes,

Liz Bienfang, Davalene Cooper, Abby and Mary Diamond-Kissaday, Kate Doyle, Diane Jordan, Trish McAleer, Karen Plaskon, Ron Pollara, Jean Railton, Lisa Sawyer, Gail Moran Slater, Patti Smith, and Carol Valentine. Thanks also to everyone who donated to the November special plate that provided funds to purchase the food and supplies for the dinner. Any leftover funds will be donated to FHSS. Finally, thanks to the Hingham Women's Club who provided crafts, decorations, table centerpieces, and boxes of cookies for the families to take home. And to Santa who brightened everyone's evening!

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.

Task Force on Widening the Circle of Concern

In 2017, the Unitarian Universalist Association Board of Trustees established a Commission on Institutional Change. The commission was charged with conducting an audit of white privilege and the structure of power within Unitarian Universalism, and with analyzing



structural racism and white supremacy culture within the UUA. In 2020, the commission published Widening the Circle of Concern, a report of its findings and recommendations about racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism. Beginning on February 1, Ralph Brown and Davalene Cooper will be leading a three week class to explore this report, and how we can make its findings visible in the Old Ship community. More information will be in the February newsletter



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

- Deacon's Meeting Wednesday, January 4th 7:00 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees -** Thursday, January 5th 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; the Zoom Link for the: Monthly Board Meeting

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 office or on the table right outside of the office door. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!





Shopping and Amazon Smile:

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!

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