

First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

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

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

February 2023 Newsletter

Trouble viewing this email or want to print? View as Webpage

Deadline for March's Newsletter: Tuesday, February 21, 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.

Click here to join Sunday Worship!

There has been an uptake in reported Covid cases in Massachusetts and we are aware of a few members of our congregation who have recently tested positive.

All are welcome to our Sunday services however, if you are not feeling well, please consider zooming in this week for the health of your neighbors.

A Note from Erin

"Always say 'yes' to the present moment," writes Eckhart Tolle. "What could be more futile, more insane, than to create inner resistance to what already is? What could be more insane than to oppose life itself, which is now and always now? Surrender to what is. Say 'yes' to life — and see



how life suddenly starts working for you rather than against you."

Surrender 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:

When/how in your life have you surrendered? Do you regret the decision?

What is the nature of surrender?

When has letting go meant gaining power and strength and not giving up either?

How is surrender a yielding and not a giving up?

Is surrender an act of awareness or is it something that is down unconsciously?

When have you chosen not to surrender? Do you regret the decision?

Peace, Erin

Old Ship Board of Trustees February newsletter

Updated Roles and Schedule for the Board:

Maureen Butler will be Acting President for the remainder of the church year.



We are also pleased to welcome Janice McPhillips to the Board of Trustees (BOT) Janice will be completing the term of Joan Wilson who left the Board in December.

With the large amount of work needed over the next few months, the Board of Trustees has decided to schedule bi-weekly meetings through the end of March. Meetings will still be Thursday's at 7:00 p.m. and have been added to the Old Ship Calendar.

In our 1/19 BOT meeting the Interim Space Team presented some space options. They, along with the Board, will be looking at a few more options by the end of January. The Board will be voting on an interim space recommendation on our January 31st meeting..

Preparing for the move continues. This week the safe was moved from the Parish House office to the Meeting House.

There are many opportunities to volunteer and connect at Old Ship but the two areas where immediate help is needed are on the Stewardship Campaign and the Buildings & Grounds Committee.

Stewardship Campaign:

The success of our shared goals, our values, our ministry depends on all of us doing our

share financially. Volunteers are needed to run this year's Annual Stewardship Campaign to support our programming and our staff. Two people have offered to help and we need 1 or 2 more to round off this important committee.

The Finance Committee will provide the needed pledge and financial information. The Stewardship Committee is responsible for the creative portion of the campaign and bringing

Stewardship Is...



Love in Action

the fun to fundraising. These campaigns are critical to the success of our congregation and are also a wonderful way to share your passion for Old Ship. If you are interested, please email Jack Gomez or Janet Asnes.

Building & Grounds:

The Building & Grounds Committee oversees the physical assets of our church, and identifies, plans, and arranges the completion of necessary and/or desirable maintenance, repair, and improvement activities. They work closely



with Mark and Crissi, our Sextons and with Lisa, our Office Administrator.

The work this committee does is often behind the scenes but is invaluable to supporting our shared ministry.

Are you interested in being a member of this committee? Do you want to learn more about what they have done and are doing? Please reach out to <u>Janice McPhillips.</u>

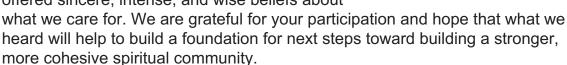
Momentum is a word that is floating around Old Ship right now. It is an exciting word evoking feelings of anticipation and hope. There is plenty to be hopeful about in our future. Nearly ninety of us participated in the Listening Circles held by the Transitional Ministry Committee. The feelings, beliefs and experiences shared during these conversations will give us momentum to further the spiritual work we are doing as a congregation in preparation of calling a settled minister. Jumping over fire and a Saturday Supper are just two ways we reconnected as a community this month.

As we enter into the second half of this church year, let's continue to take the time to connect, be thoughtful and to honor UU the principles that guide and inspire us.

The Board of Trustees,
Maureen Butler, Acting President
Jack Gomez, Treasurer
Trish McAleer, Clerk
Roy Harris, Trustee
Janice McPhillips, Trustee
Janet Asnes, President Emerita

For the past three months the Transitional Ministry Committee (TMC), in addressing its role to improve relations and strengthen the overall ministry of the Parish, has facilitated Listening Circles.

Almost 90 people participated in the Listening Circles. They were invited to speak and listen deeply and compassionately without discussion. The voices from the circles offered sincere, intense, and wise beliefs about



Please join us on Sunday, February 12th for a service as we share what was discussed and talk about our next steps.

SUNDAY FLOWERS DONOR

Interested in being a donor for our Sunday flowers? **February 12 & 19 are available!** You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact Sharon Prehn (prehn@verizon.net or 781-925-0101).



listening

Fellowship Hour & Snacks:

We are having food for coffee hour! <u>Last names</u> <u>beginning Q - Z are asked to bring snacks this</u> <u>Sunday, February 5th.</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.



The Pastoral Care Leadership Team

invites you to our Valentine's Day Open House.

Please join us in the parlor on February 14th

from 2:30-4:30

for fellowship, conversation, and seasonal refreshments.

No agenda; all are welcome!!

Please contact <u>Joan Wilson</u> by email or call 781-378-0678 for questions or more details.

The Pastoral Care Team Members:

Ralph Brown, Liz Flint, Elaine Gomez, Alicia Harkness, Fan Leonard, Claire Petrie, Joan Wilson, Erin Splaine

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

My how January has flown by. As I look forward to spring and all the music that comes along with it, I am thankful to be part of a congregation that cherishes and values music. Though we as a community are going through a time of transition and change, it's important to remember why we are here: to help others, to embody compassion, to search for truth and meaning, to fight for justice and equity, and very simply, to love. My hope is that we will not only remember this when we are facing out -- to our towns, state, country, the world -- but also when we are facing inward to ourselves and our Old Ship community. A little compassion can go a long way, even if you never fully see where it goes or what it does. So, as Diana Ross put it "Reach out and touch somebody's hand. Make this world a better place, if you can...Take a little time out of your busy day to give encouragement to someone who's lost the way." I truly believe that we can make this world a better place and there's no better place to start than right here. I wish you the best for this upcoming month and hope that your 2023 is off to a good start.

Reach Out And Touch

Musically Yours, Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

The Heart Knoweth

We have great deal more kindness than is ever spoken.

The whole human family is

bathed with an element of love like a fine ether.

How many persons we meet in houses, whom we scarcely speak to, whom yet we honor and who honor us!

How many we see in the street, or sit with in church, whom though silently, we warmly rejoice to be with!

Read the language of these wandering eye-beams.

The heart knoweth.

Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882)

Responses always welcome (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)



Sunday, February 5th, is your opportunity to tour the rental space at 14 Main Street after the service. Come on down! Enter via the South Street entrance. The landlord has some minor repairs and painting and to do, but the space will be open for us.



Volunteers are needed to start packing up the kitchen and religious education supplies in the Parish House. Please contact <u>Carol Valentine</u> to add your name to the list!
781 749-6519

The Committee on Transitional Ministry Update:

The Committee on Transitional Ministry (formerly the Committee on Ministry) is dedicated and concerned with supporting and strengthening the overall ministry of Old Ship church. The committee works to keep the minister apprised and advised of the current conditions



During December and January 87 friends and members participated in the Listening Circles answering the questions: What brought you to Old

within the congregation as to how they affect relationships as a whole.

Ship? What is working for you? For what do you yearn? On the surface these are simple questions but the conversations that followed were anything but simple.

We are working on summarizing these conversations which will be given in a report to the congregation. In February we will be sharing what we learned from the circles in a worship service.

The conversations we have had and are continuing to have are helping us to create opportunities for more listening and reflecting with one another.

Later this winter we will be starting another series of circles designed to give us more opportunities to come together on a deeper level and hopefully have some fun.

Your participation has made such a difference and we thank you so much for showing up!

If you have any questions or comments, please reach out to anyone on the Committee of Transitional Ministry: Diane Elliott, Michael Jordan, Lorraine Varney-Riggs. Chris Sullivan, Paul Stone and Janet Asnes,

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 <u>Lisa</u>



Children & Youth Religious Education February 2023

We welcomed in the new year with our traditional Fire Jumping on Sunday, January 8th. This multigenerational favorite gives us the opportunity to decide what we want to leave behind us in 2022 and what we want to bring with us in 2023 as we leap into the new year.

It's a creative time to be part of RE at Old Ship and if you'd like to join the team committed to creating a joyful, spiritual space in our congregation for our children to feel connected to one another and to Unitarian Universalism please let us know!

We could welcome volunteers to be on the committee and/or to be available on Sunday mornings from time to time.





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.

We are pleased to announce that Heather Nolasco has joined the RE committee and has offered to be our youth group/ ministry advisor. She will be engaging with the UUA Youth ministry trainings, planning the winter/ spring priorities and activity with our youth, and connecting us to the regional churches' youth group start-up underway. So excited !! Watch your emails for extra details !



Father Bill's Lunch Making: Each month we make 80 bagged lunches for Father Bill's. Our thanks to Fan Leonard for volunteering to deliver them this month. All are welcomed to help with preparing these lunches on the 4th Sunday of month - Come one, Come All!

Sunday School classes are offered during the worship service, at 10:30, for any children who join us. We start in the Meeting House most Sundays. This winter our focus is on turning our Unitarian Universalist Principles into action, on Sunday and all week. We will blend stories, art, listening, conversation, working together outside, all while we consider some principle related, big ideas.



Sunday afternoons -OWL continues to meet for our 8th and 9th graders. We have members from Old Ship as well 3 other regional UU Churches. There is no OWL class on February 26th.

RE Committee Members, Janet Asnes, Maureen Butler, Susan Carrillo, Diane Elliott, Lauren Gadot, Morgan Morales, and Heather Nolasco

January's Welcoming Congregation Discussion Helps a Stranger

January's Welcoming Congregation began as a lively discussion among new and old First Parish attendees getting to know\w one another. We were joined by woman who was concerned she should be a part of our group. I made sure she knew she was welcomed, this is a LGBTQ+ group discussion that welcomes all. She went on



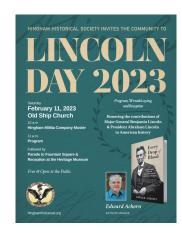
to tell us about her wonderful grandchild in early 20s who is open and honest about their being transgender. She and the entire family are completely supportive of them. Her issue, was the difficultly she has with using their correct name and pronoun they/their. She was frustrated that she couldn't easily make the changes and felt so bad every time she did, even though her grandchild said, "its okay grandma". We all talked about the difficulties of

relearning names and pronouns, especially when we've know the person so long. Told her about the classes we'd had here at church, she said due to health reasons she could make the one last Fall. I told her there was a mini version coming up at Linden Ponds in February and she could attend that. That's when we learned, she live in VA, and her long time friend and Old Shipper suggested our discussion group. As we continued to talk, found the closest PFLAG (Parents, Families, and Friends/Allies of Lesbians and Gays/Transgender/Queer) and how to contact them. She felt better having someone to talk with, would reach out to PFLAG. Told her come join us any time, 4th Wed of each month. This is why we have a Welcoming Congregation Committee, to be there for anyone, so they feel welcomed and have the ability to talk freely and learn from one another.

Hingham Historical Society's 46th Lincoln Day Commemoration Saturday, February 11 at 10:15 AM

Brochure

For many years - decades actually - we have been pleased to open our Meeting House for the annual Lincoln Day Commemoration sponsored and led by the Hingham Historical Society. Hingham's "Lincoln Day" honors two Lincolns,



Hingham's own Revolutionary War General Benjamin Lincoln, and President Lincoln, whose ancestors were among the early settlers of Hingham. As you'll see from the brochure, this year the keynote speaker will be the accomplished Lincoln historian Edward Achorn. Our own Christopher Nickelson-Mann will lead the music.

Staff Recognition Sandwich Coffee Hour Sunday, February 12 After Church

Honoring the staff of Old Ship Church
Fellowship Hall
Bring Sandwich "Fixings" to share. Or just come and join us,
Let's have fun!



Life Learning Offerings

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

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, **February 9th & 23rd** 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 Rich Elliott.

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – our next gathering will be February 12th–in person 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. The next meeting will be on **Sunday**, **February 26th** 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: https://zoom.us/i/92656862826?pwd=cGZwOHVzR0lpLzdPQ2ZmVnNjYVZBUT09 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, **February 7th**, 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?pwd=M3NEcVNibjdgM1RvUHhTUm9aN21Edz09

Fiber Funship

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

Widening the Circle Class is Postponed Until the Fall — This class was scheduled to begin on February 1, and last for two more Wednesdays. But after a long discussion, Ralph Brown and Davalene Cooper believe that the congregation will be best served by focusing right now on the Listening Circles, which have begun and will continue.

We think that the self-examination and talking that the Listening Circles are fostering are extremely important efforts helping us move through these days of our congregation's life. We don't want anything to detract from those efforts. We look forward to sharing the UUA's findings about diversity and inclusion, and how we can make them visible in the Old Ship community. We want to learn how we can transform our privilege and power so that it shows up as love. Please contact us, Ralph or Davalene, if you have any questions.

Discussion 3rd Principal - Accept One Another + **Encourage Spiritual Growth** Wed. Feb 22nd, at 7p on Zoom. Click Here for the Zoom Link https://zoom.us/j/95490356542?



pwd=eDFNZUY0K2N4bzV4dEtZU3E2TVBJQT09

The 3rd UU Principle is made up of two parts. Accept One Another + Encourage Spiritual Growth Alone, each is powerful and requires work.

Accept One Another - Can you accept the person sitting next to you, whose views are so significantly different? Everyone has so many opinions, there is no way we all agree on everything.

Encourage Spiritual Growth - Do you continue to seek spiritual growth in your? Is the congregation working together in its spiritual life, or are we letting the minister do that for us?

When you combine them together, it is absolutely powerful and can be challenging. We are facing that challenge right now at church. This is our discussion in February, the month of love is: how do we Accept

One Another + Encourage Spiritual Growth among one another? As always, discussions are open to everyone, not just our LGBTQ+ community.

Living with Dying Six Wednesdays, Feb. 22 — March 29, 7:00 p.m.,

Rich Elliott, Claire Petrie on Zoom

Despite the presence of death, dying and grief in our lives, we tend to avoid speaking of it directly. This class will facilitate a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on topics relating to death and dying. We will invite participants to experience death and dying as a natural part of life. For information and for the Zoom link contact Rich.



News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

Next Meeting is Saturday, March 18, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. If you are not a member and would like to join us for the meeting, contact <u>Davalene Cooper</u>,

at davalenecooper@verizon.net, for the Zoom link. All are welcome!



social

Justice

February's Special Plate Collection is for the Hingham Food Pantry— We at Old Ship have supported the Hingham Food Pantry since its beginning. Our weekly food collections have not generated a lot of food donations since Covid began. And now, given the challenges of the economy and the inflationary pressures on families, the food pantry is a critical organization for the families it serves. Therefore, the SJC decided to make the food pantry the recipient of our February special plate. We are planning for the special plate in the Meeting House to be on February 12th--let's make the food pantry our special Valentine and show our love by donating funds to feed our neighbors in need. For every \$1 we donate, the food pantry can buy \$3 of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank.

Although the special plate will be on February 12, donations are accepted throughout the month of February online through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to the Hingham Food Pantry or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with Hingham Food Pantry designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Food Donations for the Hingham Food Pantry— We will continue to collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry each week in February. 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: Canned Vegetables, Cookies, Pasta Sauce, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Spaghetti, Dried Fruit, Nuts, and 1 lb. bags of Granulated Sugar (nothing larger please).

Special Plate Reports and Thanks to Our Community — Thanks to all who contributed to our November special plate in support of the holiday dinner for the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore. We collected a total of \$963.88, and after deducting the expenses for the holiday dinner, we sent a check for \$544.93 to the Friends.

Thanks also to everyone who donated to our December special plate, UUSC's Guest at Your Table program. We raised a total of \$7889.54 to support the important work of UUSC.

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Book Group meeting on February 19 at 7 p.m. on Zoom: Our February book is *Three Sisters*, by Heather Morris. This novel focuses on the story of three sisters who survived Auschwitz and shares their lives following that experience. It is our first book to explicitly address the holocaust and Anti-Semitism. Patti Smith will lead the discussion.

The books for the remainder of the church year are as follows: *The Other Side of Prospect: A Story of Violence, Injustice, and the American City,* by Nicholas Dawidoff (March 19), *The Sentence,* by Louise Erdrich (April 16), and *Climate Change is Racist: Race, Privilege and the Struggle for Climate Justice,* by Jeremy Williams (May 21).

Here is the Zoom link for the February

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

Upcoming Events at the UU Urban Ministry:

Lunch with an Artist (featuring Ayana Mack) on Feb 15, 1:00 PM – 1:45 PM (Zoom event); Designer Mack joins UUUM's Bithyah

Israel to share work samples and the inspiration behind her work. To join the event, go to https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85688818937.

Community Conversations: Education: Do access and affordability level the playing field?

Discussion with Jackie Jenkins-Scott. Jackie Jenkins-Scott is the interim-president of Roxbury Community College. Prior to this, she was the 13th president of Wheelock College as well as its first African-American president. She is the founder and president of JJS Advising, a consulting company specializing in leadership development and organizational and corporate strategy. Jackie was also president and CEO of Dimock Health for 21 years, and has deep ties to the Roxbury community. Join the event on Zoom at https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86882685508.

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.

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day 2023--Save the Date! Tuesday, March 28 — This is a day where UU's come together in community and act on our values by meeting with legislators about critical statewide policies around our five core issue areas: Decarceration and Economic, Climate, Indigenous, and Immigrant Justice. Sign up here to stay tuned on when registration opens for our UU Mass Action Advocacy Day!

Should Our UU Seven Principles be Replaced? Article
II Study Commission Update — At the UUA's Board of
Trustee's Meeting in January, the Article II Study
Commission presented its report. This report
recommends changes to the UUA Bylaws related to the
Principles and Purposes. In essence, the Principles would
be replaced with a statement of Values and Covenant
with Love at the center. of our shared values. These
shared core values include Interdependence, Equity,
Transformation, Pluralism, Generosity, and Justice. You
may read the report at Article II Study Report to the Board of Trustees
(uua.org) and you may view the PowerPoint slides presented to the Board
at a2sc_bot_pres_01202023.pdf (uua.org). This year's General Assembly in
Pittsburgh will vote on these proposed changes, which might be amended
before then. (Submitted by Davalene Cooper)

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

- Board of Trustees Tuesday, January 31st 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; click for Zoom Link for this Meeting
 - **Deacon's Meeting** Wednesday, February 1st 7:00 p.m.
 - Choir Practice Thursday, February 2nd 7:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
 - **Finance Committee Meeting** Tuesday, February 7th 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Nursery

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!





This program is ending on February 20, 2023! 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 <u>smile.amazon.com</u> to support your favorite charity.



Happy Valentine's Day from your friends at Old Ship Church!

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

Unsubscribe office@oldshipchurch.org

Update Profile |Constant Contact Data Notice

Sent byoffice@oldshipchurch.orgpowered by

