



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

### December 2019 Newsletter

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## Worship

### Sunday, December 1, 10:25am

This Sunday after Thanksgiving will be our annual "pulpit exchange" with First Parish in Cohasset. Ken Read-Brown will be preaching in Cohasset, and Rev. Bob McKetchnie will be preaching here at Old Ship.

Bob's sermon will be "Living the Sabbath: When Being Given A Time Out was A Good Thing." Bob writes: "Georgetown college philosophy professor, Norman Wirzba writes, 'The Sabbath once gave us an anchor in life, as well as a goal by which to judge our desires and striving.' Today's sermon will examine the benefits of recovering a Sabbath sensibility in our lives despite the fact that it makes no economic sense to do so."



### Sunday, December 8, 10:25am

We are very pleased to welcome Rev. Mark Kiyimba back to our pulpit. Rev. Kiyimba was with us in the summer of 2014. He is a Unitarian Universalist minister and activist for LGBTQ rights in Uganda. He founded and leads the Unitarian Universalist Church of Kampala, Uganda; the church runs an orphanage and a school for children infected with HIV/AIDS and who have lost parents to the disease. He has been a vocal opponent of Uganda's Anti-Homosexuality Bill; in 2010, he organized a conference called "Standing on the Side of Love: Reimagining Valentine's Day" to protest the Bill. He has taken his opposition to the United States, seeking support for his mission. The National Education Association awarded him its 2012 Virginia Uribe Award for Creative Leadership in Human Rights.

Rev. Kiyimba's sermon will be "Unitarian Universalist Faith in 21st Century: A New Thinking For a New Millennium." Our Rev. Ken Read-Brown will host Rev. Kiyimba and lead our service.

Saturday evening, December 7, at 6:30 in the Parish House parlor, Rev. Kiyimba will show the film "God Loves Uganda", which the New York Times described as "A searing look at the role of American evangelical missionaries in the persecution of gay Africans."  
*(Refreshments will be served.)*

### Sunday, December 15, 10:25am

In this Advent/Christmas/Hanukkah season of many stories, Ken's sermon will be "Inside the Story." How does the meaning of a story change when we remember that those inside the story didn't know how it would turn out? After all, something like our own lives.

### Sunday December 22

Our annual pageant Sunday! Ken will share a UU re-telling of the story of the birth of Jesus. Participants in the pageant? Whomever wishes! If you're feeling like a shepherd... or like a star... or like an angel.... or like a wise one... costumes will be available when your time in the story arrives. Together we will create a memorable and beautiful tableau!

The service will of course include plenty of carols for all to sing.

**Christmas Eve: Tuesday, December 24, 5pm**

Old Ship's Christmas Eve service is a beloved tradition not only for us who regularly worship here, but for many others in the wider community. All are warmly welcomed to the stable we call our Old Ship Meeting House - for traditional carols, readings both traditional and not so traditional, beautiful music from Christopher and the choir, and a story from Ken.

The Meeting House fills early; wise ones plan to arrive before 4:30. Childcare for the very young will once again be kindly offered in the Parish House nursery by our good friends from Congregation Sha'aray Shalom.



### **Sunday, December 29 - service of shared readings in the Fellowship Hall**

Our annual New Year's breakfast and service of shared readings will take place in our Fellowship Hall: Breakfast at 9:30; worship at 10:30. Everyone is invited to bring a reading to share, or just ears to listen.

### **Seasonal Vespers Services**

On Wednesday evenings at 6:30 between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there will be vespers services in our gently lit Meeting House. Each service will include music from an Old Ship musician or two, readings from Old Ship readers, plenty of silence, and an opportunity to light a candle for someone or some hope or prayer - all coordinated and led by Ken Read-Brown. Each service will be about forty minutes long.

*Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Women's Breakfast or The Way of the Bodhisattva study group or a Sunday early morning committee meeting and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office (781-749-1679) by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.*

### **Most Sunday mornings...**

*Most Sunday mornings at Old Ship begin with gatherings in small circles in the Parish House parlor for sharing and spiritual enrichment. And we are all invited! Our web site has more detailed information about these opportunities: The "Way of the Bodhisattva Study/Meditation Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month. "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation. And the Women's Breakfast meets at 8:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month.*

*from the minister's desk*

### **Musing**

Here's the thing about holidays. They come no matter what else is going on in your life or in the larger world.

Thanksgiving? How do you celebrate if things in your life seem to be going awry? How do any of us celebrate this national feast when our democracy is under threat? And how have we ever celebrated a feast day that is, in part, a remembrance that is anything but evocative of thanks for the indigenous peoples of this land?

And what about Christmas? Are we meant to be joyful if our lives are anything but? Hopeful when hope is hard to find? Peaceful in the midst of turmoil and conflict?

Of course it has ever been so. These and other holidays and holy days arrive on the calendar's schedule, which may or may not reflect our life's circumstances in any given year. Yet it seems to me that it is this fact itself which gives these holidays their power.

I'm of course not about to tell anyone how to feel in the midst of the holidays. I will report, though, that I've known folks who even as they were going through very difficult or traumatic life events expressed over and over again how thankful they were for gifts they were receiving in the midst of their struggle: the presence of friends, the casseroles, the notes, and so on. Challenge and gratitude intertwined, all at the same time. In Paul's letter to the Galatians he encouraged the community to give thanks in all circumstances - notice he did not say "for" all circumstances, but "in" all circumstances. Easy? Of course not. Possible? Maybe not always, but I've seen it. Perhaps you have too.

When it comes to the even more complicated festival of Christmas, I've observed that the way to spiritual health for many when the joy of Christmas just isn't possible for them, sometimes is to ignore the expectations of the culture and instead to find their own way through the season. This might mean seeking quiet times to reflect, perhaps going on some sort of retreat, as simple as a weekend with a friend who understands. Or, paradoxically, it might mean throwing themselves more wholeheartedly than ever into the carols and concerts and gatherings as a way of cutting through their sadness. Whatever the choice or strategy, the point is to listen to the promptings of our hearts rather than to the messages of the superficial culture all around us.

So... whatever is going on in your life this year as the season of Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Solstice is upon us, follow your heart, listen to inner promptings, seek a friend who understands. May you discover gratitude, perhaps joy, and I hope a measure of peace.

And if our lives are filled with blessings this season, may we reach out and offer a listening ear or helping hand to those whose personal calendar this year doesn't match the calendar on the wall.

Peace and blessings,  
Ken  
[oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com)  
cell: 781-635-2060

*My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from about 10:00 - 2:00 and by appointment. Monday is my day off, and Thursday my sermon writing day. My primary phone contact is through the Parish House office - 781-749-1679. The office answering machine includes my cell phone if you need to reach me quickly - since when I am not in the office I am either working in my study at home, or making visits or attending meetings elsewhere. I can also be reached via email, [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).*

*--Ken*

### **Note from Christopher Nickelson-Mann Music Director**

Hello Everyone!

It's the day after my first Sunday at Old Ship and I am filled to the brim with warmth and joy at the kind welcome that you gave my husband and me. We both enjoyed meeting so many of you, having conversations, and of course, eating that delicious chocolate cake. If you didn't get a chance to say hello, I look forward to meeting you in the weeks to come.

As the holiday season approaches, it's easy to get caught up in the hustle and bustle of life. It always makes me happy when someone tells me they turn to music to keep them grounded or to find respite from a busy day. For some, that's listening to a favorite song on the radio or singing at the top of your lungs when you have the house to yourself. For others, it could be picking up the guitar that's been stashed away in your closet or stopping to listen to the group of carolers while you're out running errands. Simply put, music has the amazing ability to soothe the soul in ways we don't fully understand.



In my conversations with Old Ship members, I've learned that the Christmas Eve service is a cherished tradition in the community. I look forward to experiencing this firsthand in a few weeks. The brass quartet will return again this year and, along with the Old Ship Choir, will gift us with beautiful music prepared especially for Christmas Eve. If you're interested, come join in on the fun of music-making! Choir rehearsals are Thursday evenings at 7pm. Let me know if you plan on attending and I'd be happy to add you to the email list. If singing in the choir isn't your thing, then remember to take time to appreciate the music around you, wherever it may be.

"Music produces a kind of pleasure which human nature cannot do without." -- Confucius

Musically Yours,  
Christopher

## Children's Religious Education

### R.E. NOTES

November 19, 2019

Dear Old Ship... On Friday, November 1st, six Old Shippers did a session with CityReach...

I'd like to give you a tiny soupçon of what we experienced.

I strongly recommend that Old Ship sends a group again next year, and that lots of you go. Sarah Hurley and I will be gone, but this was our first time and we did fine. You will too.





"Phone and Photography Policy: We require all cell phones be placed on silent and that all participants refrain from being on them for the duration of the program. We discourage photography during the program. However, if you do take a few photos to share with your community, please respect the privacy of the CityReach staff and Open House guests. This means asking permission prior to taking a photo and being careful not to catch anyone in the background. While this is not an issue many of us consider serious in this age of smartphones and social media, it can be a source of anxiety and a considerable threat to safety for some individuals."





"After CityReach

Moving Forward: Every community has poverty, even if it's not as visible as it is in downtown Boston. Look for ways to help in your own community.

Tell Us How You Were Inspired: We would love to hear from you after your City Reach experience. How did it impact your group? How were you inspired to help in your own community?

Invite us to Visit: *common cathedral* staff members are available to preach in your church and/or to lead forums about homelessness, and to encourage your congregation's involvement in our ministry. We will often bring one or two members of our community. We prefer that you make such preaching arrangements with us, rather than directly with CityReach staff."



"Thank you for being part of CityReach! We believe that we can change the world

through building relationships: reaching out across our differences to learn from each other and to remember our shared humanity."

*Ditto,*  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education

### **Tis the Season to Give Thanks**

I've been thinking a lot lately about how grateful I am for our Old Ship community. You help me be social, think more deeply, and put my convictions into action. And you comfort me. I think of you as an extension of my family. So, it's easy to decide to give you a gift for Christmas, just as I would to any cherished member of my family. It won't be a lavish gift, but it will help, because I know that our Old Ship community makes great use of every dollar we receive. Will you join me, and make a special gift to Old Ship this December? I hope so! And I'm sure that Old Ship will accept it with gratitude!



- Nina Wellford, Treasurer and Old Ship family member

A promotional graphic for Amazon Smile. On the left, two Christmas ornaments hang from strings: one is blue and white striped, the other is solid blue with a white starburst. To the right, the text reads: "#1 holiday hack: When you buy your gifts at smile.amazon.com, Amazon donates." Below this is the "amazon smile" logo, which includes the Amazon arrow logo and the word "amazon" in black, with "smile" in a lighter blue font.

**#1 holiday hack:**

When you buy your gifts  
at **smile.amazon.com**,  
Amazon donates.

**amazon**smile

When shopping online, please use Amazon Smiles and designate Old Ship as your charity of choice. We receive a small percentage of the sale. Thank you!

### **Nurturing Community**

#### **Among Us**

WANTED: reasonably priced in-law apartment for my 73 yr old mother. She is healthy, able, quiet, clean and kind. If your in- law apartment is empty, she would be the perfect tenant and could watch the property if you travel. Please contact Deb Squires-Lee at 781 258 1329.

We extend healing good wishes to Diane Elliott, as she continues to recover from successful surgery related to ovarian cancer:

Diane's recent surgery for cancer went very well, but unfortunately she is not healing as quickly as we had hoped. She and her family appreciate all the support everyone has shown, and they would like to continue to receive dinners three times a week. If you'd like to join her care team, please go to [lotsahelpinghands.com](https://lotsahelpinghands.com), click on Join a Community, and search for Diane's Handy

Helpers. It should bring you to a page to sign up; then you can see the calendar of available days and receive messages about any other help she might need. Thank you all!

-submitted by Nina Wellford

We extend healing good wishes to Mary Nelson, who continues to heal and rehab at her home in Linden Ponds.

Welcome home to Mary Thomas! Mary returned not too long ago from California to continue regaining her strength following her rehab from a shoulder injury sustained while visiting family in California.

We bid a very fond farewell to the Hurley family: Sarah, Bryan, and their children Libby, Sawyer, and Rosie. They have recently moved to Lancaster, Pennsylvania. They have given so much to our Old Ship community, and will miss them! We look forward to their visits.

Please send any items for "Among Us" either to Julianna Dunn in the Parish House office ([office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org)). Like our Candles of Joy and Sorrow on Sunday mornings, this page helps us to knit the fabric of community.

### **Christmas Caroling around Hingham!**

This year's annual carpool Christmas caroling, led by Ken Read-Brown, will be on Saturday, December 21.

We will gather at the Parish House at 2:00 and make visits to Harbor House Nursing Home, perhaps to Allerton House assisted living, and to several Old Shippers at their homes. All are welcome, whatever you might think of your singing ability! No such thing as a wrong note - just a harmony no one had yet discovered! Bring yourselves (all ages welcome!) and bring your spirit. Caroling books will be provided.

### **Committee on Ministry**

The Committee on Ministry, with a rotating membership appointed by our Board of Trustees, meets monthly with our minister, Ken Read-Brown, to reflect on the five ministries of Old Ship, and sometimes to discuss particular current concerns or issues with the life of our congregation.

Input, questions, concerns, ideas from Old Ship members and friends is of course always welcome. Feel free to contact Ken or any of the current members of the committee: , Eva Marx, Rob Baynes, Cory Fitz-Marquez, John Sneath, Pam Harty, and Dennis Hogan.

## **Other December Events**

### **Carpool Caroling - Saturday, Dec. 21, 2:00 p.m.**

Our annual carpool caroling expedition will be on the afternoon of December 8. We will gather just before 2:00 at the Parish House, and then head right out to make several stops, including a nursing home and also the homes of a few Old Ship folks who are unable to get out much any longer. All are welcome - whatever your age and however well you believe yourself to sing. Enthusiasm is more important than the "right" notes! Caroling books will be provided.

### **Gingerbread House Making - Saturday, Dec. 21, 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall**

Join us for our annual Gingerbread House Making party in the Fellowship Hall. Chili, corn bread & hot cider will be available for snacking while we build. EVERYONE'S INVITED!! If you've never built a gingerbread house, this is the perfect time to start a new family tradition! Prepare your walls in advance - recipes and templates will be available during coffee hours. Show up at the Parish House on Saturday the 21st at 4:00 with walls, a tray large enough to hold your finished house, and some fun decorations to share. Or you can bring a store-bought kit or a box of graham crackers and an empty milk carton or two! Icing glue, enthusiasm, and construction assistance will be supplied.

### **23rd Annual Winter Solstice Poetry Evening**

Crossing Time - Winter Solstice Poetry Event

This season's Crossing Time is the winter solstice (marking the longest night of the year before the gradual return of more light). We will gather in the Meeting House on the eve of



the solstice. Bring a poem if you like, one about hope, or winter's gift or one that inspires you, or simply come and listen. Leave the busyness of the holiday rush, and nourish your spirit with the steady and sturdy truth and beauty of poetry. The choral quintet "crossroads" led by Old Ship's Rich Jensen will perform some winter carols and poetry set to music. Also, Chris Hossfeld on piano and Jeremy Harmon on cello will be playing for us as we arrive. The event is free. Come and bring a friend. All are welcome.

### **Pastoral Care Leadership Team**

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team meets monthly with Ken and often coordinates meals and other forms of caring for Old Ship individuals and families in the midst of illness or crisis. If you have a need or are aware of a need that the PCLT might be able to help meet, you may be in touch with Ken or any member of the group. At Old Ship we all share in our mutual caring and helping one another; the Pastoral Care Leadership Team simply helps to identify needs and coordinate responses.



Here are specifically two ways Old Ship members might want to help out:

Rides: Would you be able to give an Old Ship parishioner a ride to church, either regularly or from time to time?

Food: Would you be willing to prepare a casserole to be given to someone who could use a little extra help following a hospitalization or in the midst of illness or treatments?

If you might be able to help in either of these or other ways, please be in touch with a member of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team. Thanks very much!

Ralph Brown, [ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) (781-925-9197)  
Diane Elliott, [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com) (781-749-2248)  
Elaine Gomez, [eh-gomez@comcast.net](mailto:eh-gomez@comcast.net) (781-740-1663)  
Alicia Harkness, [PAJL7@verizon.net](mailto:PAJL7@verizon.net) (781-749-7825)  
Fan Leonard, [toomuchfun33@hotmail.com](mailto:toomuchfun33@hotmail.com) (781-749-2852)  
Joan Wilson, [joanielw@verizon.net](mailto:joanielw@verizon.net) (781-740-8840)  
Beverly Tricco, [oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org) (781-749-1679)  
Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkreb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkreb@gmail.com) (781-749-1679)

### **Building and Grounds Committee**

Thank you to Diane Jordan for taking the lead to get bids and choosing Pilgrim Paving to repave the Parish House Driveway. I'm sure everyone agrees it looks great; and thank you to the Board for redirecting funding to pay for this long-needed replacement.

Speaking of the new driveway pavement, the Committee wishes to protect it, especially the edge on the down-hill side (the usual exit to the street) that has a berm to funnel storm water and prevent erosion of the adjacent land. The Committee has requested that the Board agree that PARKING be PROHIBITED from that downhill side. There is plenty of parking along the side and back of the Parish House and we encourage all that are able, to use those other locations to park.

The Committee has struggled for several years with limited funds to decide what preventative maintenance and repairs to do in the Parish House, not knowing how long we would be in the building. Now that the property is no longer for sale, our focus shifts to a new phase of effort to

evaluate, plan and initiate necessary repairs and replacement. We welcome any members who are willing to assist and join the Committee as we undertake this next multi-year effort.

Finally, as he has decided to leave the Committee, I wish to thank Ron Pollara for his many years of dedicated service and hard work as co-chair. His knowledge, engineering skills and wise counsel have been invaluable to me.

- Rick Mattila, chair

## EDUCATING MINDS AND HEARTS

### Life Learning programs

Coming in January:

**Touchstones of Wisdom** - five sessions, Wednesdays, Jan. 8 - Feb. 5, 1:00 and 7:00 led by Ken Read-Brown

I'll be sharing (and together we'll be discussing) many of my "touchstone" readings collected over the decades - passages and lines from the world's ancient wisdom traditions as well as from contemporary writers and poets. Along the way we'll learn something of the world's religious traditions through the window of words that have inspired me in my life - perhaps you too.

Class members will be encouraged to compile - and share if they like - their own unique touchstones. For more information and to sign up, contact Ken, 781-749-1679 or [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com).



For a complete listing of this year's classes and ongoing programs, see the "learning" page on our web site ([www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)), where the complete list of this year's offerings of classes and ongoing groups will be listed: including meditation sessions, the Bodhisattva Study Group, Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, ceilidh (song circle), Sacred Texts Meditation Group, and Fiber Funship.

The Life Learning Committee invites and welcomes your suggestions for classes, forums, and workshops for the coming year. Contact any member of the committee with your ideas:

Ken Read-Brown ([oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com))

Beverly Tricco ([dre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:dre@oldshipchurch.org))

Ralph Brown ([ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com))

Rich Elliott ([richelliott56@gmail.com](mailto:richelliott56@gmail.com))

Claire Petrie ([cdpetrie@aol.com](mailto:cdpetrie@aol.com))

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

## Social Justice Council (SJC) News for December 2019

### "God Loves Uganda" film: Saturday evening, December 7, 6:30, Parlor

Yes, many of us will be exhausted after Merrie Market, but all are invited nevertheless to a showing of this powerful film brought to us by Rev. Mark Kiyimba, the minister of our Unitarian Universalist congregation in Kampala, Uganda, which he founded. As some of us recall from his visit to us in the summer of 2014, Rev. Kiyimba has been a courageous activist for LGBTQ rights in Uganda. His congregation runs an orphanage and a school for children infected with HIV/AIDS and who have lost parents to the disease. He will be preaching at Old Ship on Dec. 8.

Here is a trailer for the film:



God Loves Uganda Official Trailer 1 (2013) -  
Documentary HD

### **Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore Holiday Party/Dinner, Thurs. Dec 12th**

If you would like to help with the fun and very special holiday celebration for the parents and children living in our local family shelters, the Holiday Dinner/Party will take place on Thurs. Dec 12th from 6-8pm in our Fellowship Hall. Old Shippers are needed to prepare some of the foods at home, help with last minute cooking at Old Ship, serve the holiday meal, and clean up after the party. Contact Jill McElroy to sign up to help [jillmcelroy@mac.com](mailto:jillmcelroy@mac.com) or 401 741-5558

### **Guest at Your Table Ends on Sunday, December 15! Bring your donations to our special plate collection that day!**

-A 79-year-old human rights organization rooted in Unitarian Universalist values, UUSC advances human rights in the United States and around the globe through research, advocacy, and partnerships with small grassroots organizations. Guest at Your Table is the major fundraising program for congregations supporting our values through the many projects of UUSC.

-The theme for this year's program is "Women Leaders, Strong Communities." We will learn more about women leaders from UUSC partner organizations who are taking on some of today's greatest human rights challenges. Here are some examples of how your donations are used:

- \$25 helps women in Kiribati access clean water for their households by supporting the installation of new water tanks.
- \$50 supports a research project led by Muslim women about the surveillance of Muslim communities in the United States.
- \$75 advances drought recovery in Tanzania by providing livelihood support for one single mother, elderly woman, or woman living with disabilities.
- \$100 bolsters women's farming cooperatives in Nicaragua through supporting improved administrative systems and strategic planning.
- \$150 helps girls and women from Burma (Myanmar) attend leadership and peace-building trainings focused on bridging ethnic and religious divides within the country.
- \$300 supports legal assistance for vulnerable migrant populations applying for asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border, including mothers with young children and pregnant women.
- \$500 helps fund psychological support and improved security measures for Honduran women human rights defenders, who are facing threats, harassment, and surveillance.

-We will be collecting your donations at our special plate offering on December 15. It is helpful if you convert the donations in your GAYT box to a check or cash. If you are not in attendance that Sunday, you may drop off your donation to the church office, or make your donation at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org) (be sure to indicate your connection of Old Ship if you donate online!).

-Individual contributions of \$125 or more are eligible to be matched dollar-for-dollar by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, NY. For this match, as well as for membership, please make your donation by check, or fill out the envelope distributed at the November 24 service.

-Questions? Contact Davalene Cooper, Old Ship's UUSC Congregational Liaison, at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) or 781-749-0790.

## Serving Others by Supporting the Hingham Food Pantry

The SJC invites you to continue to Serve Others by bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry whenever you come to Old Ship. There is a collection basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House each Sunday to receive your donation. The collection box in the outer vestibule of the Parish House is also available to accept donations when you come for classes or meetings or anytime.

A heartfelt THANK YOU for the stepped up support for the Hingham Food Pantry.

Old Ship delivered 210 lbs of non-perishable foods to the Pantry on 10/28, our largest donation to date from our congregation. For December, the Pantry has asked especially for donations of the following needed foods (and they are happy to receive donations of other foods too):

- Grape or strawberry jelly
- Hearty canned soups
- Dinty Moore Beef Stew
- Pasta sauce
- Rice
- Granola Bars
- Individually bagged or packaged snacks



## Green Sanctuary

-Following up on last month's commentary regarding the dramatic McKibben article on Banking support for the Fossil Fuel industry, I dug more deeply into the source reporting from the Rainforest Action Alliance and discovered MY BANKS WERE GETTING "D minus" RATINGS! I have now left Bank of America where I had both line of credit and all my banking. Last year my mortgage was with JP Morgan Chase!! Wow, it is also "D minus" rated. Now I also have to get rid of my Amazon Card (JP Morgan Chase). Two popular alternatives for credit card banks are Capitol One and Discover. Now living in Linden Ponds - my banking is conveniently in house (and fossil free) with Hingham Institute for Savings.

-This was not the end of my enlightenment: I turned to look more deeply into my "Fossil Fuel Divested" retirement account. I discovered these D minus banks were in my portfolio - plus several more. I have since been exchanging important literature references on the "Climate Crisis" with my financial advisor because these banks are clearly supporting petroleum industry drilling in reserves that will push global warming to unsafe levels. This week will be my day of reckoning with this advisor!

-On an upside note; Hingham's Energy Action Committee is now embarked on the pathway to "Net Zero Emissions" for the entire town. Towns across Massachusetts and the South Shore are also actively working on this pathway as well.

-Last but not least the legislature has a number of exciting bills coming up for hearings with great potential to fund what we are hoping to do. For these efforts we give much thanks! Bless you all!

--Turner Bledsoe

-If you would like to join other UU's in advocating for these bills, you are invited to join UU Climate Action Advocacy Day, Tuesday December 17, 10:00 AM - 12:30 PM

We'll meet at the State House in a conference room 413E, briefly go over the bills and the plan and then send a team of volunteers to each floor on the State House. All the materials you'll need will be provided - we just need you! This is part of a coalition wide effort to have weekly groups visit every legislator's office to keep up the pressure about our bills!

-The Plan: there will be 8 teams (minimum, 2 people per team). Each team will be assigned a floor in the State House. The teams will drop off packets of information and have short conversations about why they are there. All materials will be provided to you. Just wear your yellow, Side with Love, shirt if you have one and show up. [click here to get a shirt](#) You can learn more about the legislation [here](#). \*RSVP\* [Here!](#)

**UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)**



The mission of the UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is to unite communities and transform individuals through education, service, and advocacy. We engage communities and congregations in social action and change, with programs that empower youth and adults to realize their full potential. Over nearly 200 years, our programs have adapted to meet the needs of our community. Updates on programming and ongoing events are at [uum.org](http://uum.org)

- December 8: 2pm Join the UUUM for a visit to Black Market for a holiday shopping extravaganza. Founded by Kai & Christopher Grant, Black Market's mission is to help eradicate Boston's wealth gap. Join us to meet the founders and peruse the stunning variety of clothes, jewelry, art, and artisanal holiday gifts from local vendors. Get your holiday shopping done in style! Kindly RSVP to Bithyah at [bisrael@uum.org](mailto:bisrael@uum.org)
- December 22: 3 pm at the UUUM: John Muratore's Noel: An afternoon of classical guitar in the UUUM Meetinghouse to celebrate the season.

Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net)

### **Old Ship Coffeehouse Off the Square: Southern Rail**

Note the Special Time: Sunday, December 15, 2019 at 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Admission is \$15.00 per person.

This month's coffeehouse features the return of Southern Rail. This Appalachia-rooted, New England-based bluegrass and gospel band has played at the Coffeehouse for many attentive, engaged audiences at Christmastime. Come for an afternoon of high-energy, exuberant fun, riveting harmonies, a touch of humor, and sparkling banjo and mandolin solos. Their gospel base with a bluegrass flavor brings the season to life. Profits from the Coffeehouse are donated to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), so this is another way to support UUSC and their justice work around the world!



Southern Rail - I'm Gonna Be Movin'

### **Interested in Social Justice work at Old Ship?**

You are welcome at any Social Justice Council meeting to talk with us about your ideas of how Old Ship can Serve Others. Look for announcements of the next SJC meeting date in the Order of Service in January. Contact Brenda Black at [blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or Davalene Cooper at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net)

### **Welcome to Our New Member, Jayden Lee!**

Last June, Jayden Lee became a member of Old Ship, after being involved with our community for many years. She started attending Old Ship as a very young child when her parents, who were "Old Shippers," started bringing her here. The food and the people at Old Ship both are appealing to her. Jayden has participated in the Neighboring Faiths, Coming of Age, and Our Whole Lives education classes. She has assisted at May Breakfast since 2016. Attending every summer retreat has provided her with memorable moments. She is a proud supporter of LGBTQ rights. Continuing to attend Old Ship and, perhaps, working with the youth both are goals for her.



Jayden is in the 10th grade at Beaver Country Day School, where she particularly enjoys history class; she currently is writing a paper regarding how the media affected the course of the Vietnam War. Another favorite class is theater; she likes being involved in plays.

In her free time, she spends time with her friends and likes to help out one of them, in particular, who plays at The C Note in Hull. Taking part in "mosh pits" is one of her favorite activities. Jayden is quite eclectic in her musical tastes, particularly liking Alternative Music, Rock and Punk Pop. Ask her about these varied forms of music. At the moment, her favorite song is "Francis Forever." (No, this song is not about the present Pope!)

### **Thinking of becoming a member?**

Do you like Old Ship and enjoy the Old Ship community? Do you find yourself identifying with the UU principles of freedom and reason in religion? If the answer is yes, then perhaps it is time to consider becoming a member. Often, arriving at Unitarian Universalism is just a step in the evolution of one's thinking and convictions. By signing the membership book you are affirming your connection and commitment to Old Ship and to an open minded, reasoned, compassionate, and inclusive approach to life and spirituality. We will offer support and encouragement to you as you develop your own spirituality, and we ask that you offer your time, energy & financial support in affirming the ideals and values to which we aspire. As a member, you will be able to vote and participate in the decision-making process of the church. Please contact Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@gmail.com) or Ivy Butterworth (781-749-3190 or ivy\_butter@yahoo.com) for more information or to answer any questions/concerns.

### **Volunteer to be a Fellowship Hour Host**

Every Sunday following the service we gather in the Fellowship Hall for coffee and conversation. The only tasks for the Fellowship Hour Hosts are to pour the coffee, put out food, and clean up. Our church sexton makes the coffee, and each week a rotating segment of the alphabet (A-H, I-P, & Q-Z) brings coffee hour food. Please volunteer to help out occasionally for this recurring Sunday task. Many hands make light work! Sign up at coffee hour, or online with SignUp Genius: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/70a0c49a8aa2aa3f94-sunday1>.

### **Food for Fellowship Hour**

Fellowship Hour is a time to reconnect or get acquainted over a cup of coffee and a snack. Every Sunday we ask a different segment of the alphabet to bring a plate of food for coffee hour.

December 1: Last names beginning I-P.  
December 8: Last names beginning Q-Z.  
December 15: Last names beginning A-H.  
December 22: Last names beginning I-P.  
December 29: Last names beginning Q-Z.

Printer Cartridge Collection: Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. Drop off your cartridges in the office or in the cabinet

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

### **Merrie Market season is upon us! Saturday, December 7, 2019**

The elves have been busy getting ready for weeks now. We still need more elves to join in! Please sign up to help at Merrie Market during Fellowship Hour on our sign up board. We still need donated items too. Except for books, all donated items can be brought upstairs to Room #2 (opposite Ken's office) in the Parish House as soon as possible. Do NOT leave items by the Fellowship Hall door. For general information contact Trish McAleer 781-738-9493 [mcaleertrish@gmail.com](mailto:mcaleertrish@gmail.com), or Diane Jordan 617-308-7179 [dianejordan333@gmail.com](mailto:dianejordan333@gmail.com)



#### **Treasures! We Need More Treasures!**

Your no longer needed precious items are worth GOLD at Old Ship's Treasures Table at Merrie Market! Leave anything you find in a box marked Treasures upstairs to Room #2 (opposite Ken's office) in the Parish House. Our elves are pricing now. Thank you!! Needed treasures are: silver, china, jewelry, antiques, housewares, linens and Christmas items. No clothes, computers, TVs or electronics. Contact is Nina Wellford 781-223-3410 [nina@steelepress.com](mailto:nina@steelepress.com), or Carol Valentine 781-749-6519 [cvbostonma@aol.com](mailto:cvbostonma@aol.com)

#### **Books, DVDs, CDs and electronic games**

Please do not bring in any books until AFTER December 1st, at which point they can be put in the nursery. No textbooks please. CD's are welcome. Contacts Ivy Butterworth, [ivy\\_butter@yahoo.com](mailto:ivy_butter@yahoo.com)

**Toy Room** needs toys, games, children's books and DVDs, sports equipment, small furniture and décor. Please help us by making sure that all donations are clean and in excellent condition! Any questions contact Susannah Thomas, 781-724-2340 [zanthomas@gmail.com](mailto:zanthomas@gmail.com)

**Gift Baskets** are easy and fun! We need elves to provide the contents for our holiday gift baskets. We provide an empty basket, and you think of a basket theme and provide the contents (crafts, pet, children's, hostess, cooking, artist, soup, tea time, etc.). Be creative! Anything is fine. We will arrange the contents, shrink wrap the basket, & decorate it in holiday finery. Empty baskets and instructions are available in the Fellowship Hall, or simply bring the contents and we'll find the right sized basket. Please return by December 1st. Contact Sharon Prehn (781-925-0101 or [prehn@verizon.net](mailto:prehn@verizon.net)) with any questions.

**Wreaths need decorating.** Have any interesting pods, cones or shells? Bring your finds and your creative talents to the Parish House the week after Thanksgiving. Pat Bianco will instruct those who need assistance. Contact Pat at 617-774-7474, [bianco@pitt.edu](mailto:bianco@pitt.edu)

**Silent Auction!** Needs For Our Silent Auction! Can you offer your talents and special items to the auction? We need invites for sailing trips and weekend stays, photos, beautifully crafted items, special antiques, unique finds from your travels. Contact Diane Jordan 617-308-7179 [dianejordan333@gmail.com](mailto:dianejordan333@gmail.com), or Janice McPhillips 781-249-9141 [jbbmcpillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcpillips@gmail.com)

**Bake Table** offers a variety of homemade delights and would love to feature something from your kitchen. Cookies, pies, candies, breads, jams, scones, cakes are always popular. If you would like ideas for things that can be made ahead of time or already know what you would like to contribute, please contact Joan Wilson. All items (packaged and labeled) need to be delivered to the Parish House on Friday, December 6th before 7:30PM or before 8AM on Saturday, December 7th. Contact Joan Wilson at 781-740-8840 or [joanielw@verizon.net](mailto:joanielw@verizon.net)

**Craft Table - We**

will have unique handcrafted items made by Old Ship's Fiber Funship crew. Start your shopping early!

**Jingle Bell Café** will be open for snacks and lunch during Merrie Market. Cooks are needed to make chili, macaroni and cheese, and delicious apple cake from time-tested "secret" recipes. Pick up a recipe at the membership table. Also, sign up to help in the kitchen, serve food and bus tables. Contacts are Janet Asnes 781-878-9886 [asnes@comcast.net](mailto:asnes@comcast.net) , and Alicia Harkness 781-749-7825

**Money Managers** - We'd like to train a new small group of trusty money handlers to work our major fundraisers - to use the Square for credit cards, refill cash boxes, and count lots of beans! Please talk to Nina Wellford (781-223-3410 [nina@steelepress.com](mailto:nina@steelepress.com)) if you'd like to learn the system - with thanks to Mike Dwyer and John Sneath for their years of dedicated and accurate counting!

Set up for Merrie Market will start Sunday, December 1. Strong bodies are needed to bring boxes down from the 3rd floor attic and move books from the porch. We will also need folks to help with the clean up on both Saturday after the Market, and on Sunday, December 8.

Merrie Market is a great way to get involved, get to know friends, and have fun! If you haven't been an elf before, join us! Just ask any of the elves above, we know it's the most fun time of the year!



**Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore  
Holiday Party at Old Ship  
Thursday December 12**

Our Holiday Meal event plans are coming together nicely  
Thank you to everyone who contributed to our special plate collection



## Change Force Status

### COOKING

The main course cooking is covered by the special plate collection

If you are interested to cook at home and drop off at 6 pm - I have a few slots for sides and salad

Homemade donations welcome but we are cooking for up to 130 people - lots of them kids

### SET-UP

The tables and Serving Stations have to get up fast

We cannot get into the fellowship hall until 4 pm and we will be serving at 6:00 pm

We have a crew but could use a couple more hands

### SERVING and HELPING

We have our server crew

We had high demand for assisting families and baby holding if needed!

### CLEAN UP

The cleanup crew needs more volunteers - we are only half-way there

### EQUIPMENT

You know who you are! Ways to keep food warm  
(the most challenging logistic of all)

I will be sending a note to volunteers next week

Let me know if you want to join us

[jillmcelroy@mac.com](mailto:jillmcelroy@mac.com)

401-741-5558 (text)



**SAVE THE DATE**

## **Save the Date: Coming up at First Parish, Old Ship: The Next Steps Weekend, January 17-19, 2020.**

We are looking forward to a special weekend on January 17-19, 2020 with Stewardship for Us a UU-affiliated consulting team. At the request of Old Ship's Board of Trustees, Stewardship for Us consultant Liz Coit will be joining us to explore ways to advance our goals and aspirations toward strong and sustainable stewardship and financial planning.

Thank you in advance for sharing your insights, perspectives, and ideas during this important weekend for First Parish - Old Ship Church!  
More details to follow.

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

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