



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

February 2019 Newsletter

**March newsletter deadline is
Monday, February 25.**

[Want to print out the newsletter? Click here](#)

Worship

Sunday, February 3, 10:25am

"As if Our Lives Depended on It" will be Ken's sermon. What are our responsibilities as stewards... to begin with stewards of our own lives and families, and then extending in wider circles... to our parish, our democracy, our Earth? And how can we become better stewards?

Fellowship Hour Last names Q-Z are asked to bring food for coffee hour.



Sunday afternoon, February 3

That football game in Atlanta is not the only super event taking place this Sunday: At 3:00 p.m. our congregation, partnering with First Parish in Canton, will ordain our (and their) former intern, Dave Egan, to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. The ordination service will be held in our own Old Ship Meeting House. Among the many participants, Ken Read-Brown will preach the ordination sermon ("Why We Are Here"), Rev. Beverly Boke, retired from Canton, will offer the charge to the minister, and joint choirs will offer beautiful music directed by Chris Hossfeld and the music director at Canton, Jim Chubet.

Sunday, February 10, 10:25am

Our next service for all ages, to be held in the Old Ship Meeting House, will have as its theme, "Warm Hearts - Hot Potatoes." What warms your heart? (And how does a warm heart help us deal with the "hot potatoes" in our lives?)

Our service will conclude with an "All You Need is Love" procession from the Meeting House to the Parish House; after a closing blessing we are invited to the annual "Warm Hearts - Hot Potatoes" lunch served by our Old Ship youth, proceeds to benefit Youth Group programming. Cost is \$5 for a potato.



Sunday, February 17, 10:25am

"Does 'What Comes Next' Matter to How We Live Now?" will be Ken's sermon.

We may or may not believe in an afterlife of heaven, or heaven and hell, or reincarnation. But does what we believe or even just suspect about "what comes next" matter as we choose how to live each day?

(This will be Ken's final service prior to his ten-week sabbatical.)

Sunday, February 24, 10:25am

Our guest preacher will be Andrea Spake, Community Relations Manager, at the International Institute of New England in Boston. In her talk, "IINE: 100 Years of Open Doors and Open Hearts," she will share some of her personal story relating the work that IINE does to support recent immigrants and refugees.

Following the service, Andrea and Meg Glazer, who leads South Shore Action's immigrant rights group, will lead a forum in the Parish House parlor focused on the various ways we can be of support to immigrants during these fraught times.

Our monthly outreach offering will be given to IINE, to support their work providing humanitarian relief, education, skills training, job placement, family reunification, and pathways to citizenship for 2,000 immigrants and refugees each year.



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.

Summer Services....

It's not too early to think about being a Summer Service Speaker! Summer Services, held in Fellowship Hall, are a fantastic opportunity to learn more about your fellow parishioners. We are signing up people now to lead and facilitate worship services during the summer months. Anyone who would like to lead a Summer Service, or just share a spiritually uplifting message, please contact Karen Churchill at 781-812-5518 or at xplasticfishx@yahoo.com

from the minister's desk

Musing

A few days after poet Mary Oliver's death, a "New Yorker" appreciation described her as something like a poet laureate for Unitarian Universalists. Not that she was a Unitarian Universalist, which she wasn't, but that her poetry became so beloved among us, frequently used in worship and otherwise. This has certainly been the case here at Old Ship. Why was this? Well, speaking only for myself, I experience Mary Oliver's poems as having a way of waking you up, inviting you to see something in the world with fresh eyes and to experience our own place in the world in a fresh way. More than enough to keep me buying her next book and then her next... and sharing her poems with you.

Among my many treasured favorites, here's one, from her collection *A Thousand Mornings*. It is titled "Poem of the One World":

This morning
the beautiful white heron
was floating along above the water

and then into the sky of this
the one world

we all belong to

where everything
sooner or later
is a part of everything else

which thought made me feel
for a little while
quite beautiful myself.

So, sad though it is to know that Mary Oliver is no longer walking the ways of the world with the rest of us, how good it is to know we will always have her poems to wake us up, to help us pay better loving attention to the world in which we live - attention being what Mary Oliver once wrote was her life work. It could be ours too.

* * *

Sabbatical note

As we reported in last month's newsletter, I'll be on a ten week sabbatical leave beginning at the end of February, following the common practice in UU congregations that ministers take sabbatical time for study or other related purposes every five to seven years. I'll mostly be in Hingham, with only brief trips away; Sunday worship has been planned, with a mix of services led by guests and services led by Old Ship staff and members. A full schedule will appear in the March newsletter, along with contact information in case of pastoral or other needs that I would ordinarily tend to.

You may see me around town during this period - or even at our monthly Old Ship ceilidh or coffeehouse. But I'll miss you in the usual course of Old Ship life - and I already look forward to my return.

Peace and blessings,
Ken
oldshipkrb@gmail.com
cell: 781-635-2060

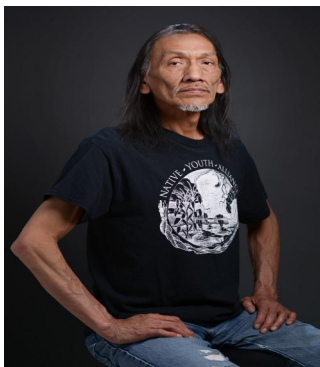
My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from about 10:00 - 2:00 and by appointment. Monday is my day off, and Thursday my sermon writing day. My primary phone contact is through the Parish House office - 781-749-1679. The office answering machine includes my cell 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.

Religious Education Notes

Dear Old Ship,

Will the Universe EVER stop handing me lessons? Not any time soon, it seems.

This past Sunday I did a story about this man, Nathan Phillips: Based on this encounter:



I had never met Nathan Phillips, Nor was I in Washington D.C. when the encounter took place.

But I also had never met Claudette Colvin, or Rosa Parks, or E. O. Wilson, or any other real person I've talked about in church.
Nevertheless, on Monday, I was wracked with self-doubt and worry that I had gotten it wrong and that I had abused my "power of the pulpit".

New, longer, video was available to watch. News outlets covered the story with widely different stances.

Photos of old sports events at this boys' school in Kentucky made the rounds.

Snopes chimed in; thank goodness for Snopes.

I was awash with information and a sense of dread.

I stayed in close contact with my boss/minister, and that kept me from panicking or spiraling.

And I had a choice; To denounce the news and the internet and all secondhand sources and withdraw...

Or to dive in and read as much as I could, including the dreaded "comments". I chose the second.

Because honestly? All my life, even before the internet, at least 95% of what I know and what I was taught was from second hand sources.

I've never been to China, but I "know" things about China.

I've never seen a great white shark, but I "know" some things about great white sharks.

I've never seen DNA, but I believe in it.

Because I was told about those things by trusted sources.

When I allow myself to be carried away... When I am "hooked" by my powerful, knee-jerk, anger against bullying and abuse of power... When I jump too soon... I cease to be a trustable source. And that shames me.

I was lucky this time; after watching a lot of upsetting video, and listening to all sorts of opinions and slanted reports, I am comfortable with my original assessment of Nathan Phillips.

To quote the great poet Jane Kenyon, "It could have been otherwise."

Reading everything but resisting "the hook"...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

Music Notes

From the Music Director

The choir is collaborating with the Old Ship youth for a Choral Vespers service on Feb. 9 at 5:30pm in the Meeting House. The music will include songs by Poulenc, Mozart, and Mackelmore. The youth have been instrumental in helping to plan and find the vision for the service. We hope to give space to contemplate our concerns and troubles, while leaving room for hope and beauty. It promises to be a poignant and moving evening.

The choir is always welcoming new members! Whether you have been singing for years or have been waiting for the perfect opportunity to give it a try, you are welcome to join us for a rehearsal, a service, or a season! Just come to a Thursday evening rehearsal, 7-9pm in Fellowship Hall, and I will get you up to speed.

Best wishes,

Chris

musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org

Old Ship Memorial/Joys and Celebrations Fund

There has been an ongoing Memorial Fund for many years at Old Ship Church. Recently the structure of this fund has been revised and an additional fund called Joys and Celebrations has been added.

Often Old Ship Members wish to contribute in memory of those departed. Members can also contribute to Old Ship to celebrate births, birthdays, or other happy events. Contributors will receive a formal card acknowledging their contribution. As well, a formal card will be sent to the recipients stating that a contribution, for example, to the Joys and Celebration fund has been made in their honor. Donated amounts will not be specified on the cards.

This addition fills a special place at Old Ship - members remembering and honoring other members by donating to the beloved community. For more information contact Julianna in the office or Pat Bianco at 617-774-7474

Why Old Ship? by Diane Jordan

Occasional writings from Old Ship members on why this community is an important part of their life.



When Michael and I were looking for a place for our wedding 19 years ago, since he grew up in Hingham, I asked him about Old Ship Church. He said it was a beautiful building and we should plan a visit. The minute we stepped inside I knew that this place was special. Our search was over. The simple beauty of the natural woodwork, and the thought of all who came before us to preserve this special place had me awestruck. We were married at Old Ship in April of 2000 and had our reception in the Parish Hall. It was a wonderful day in a place I felt surrounded by love - love from those with us on that day and from years past.

Fast forward to 2009. We were living in Hingham and thinking about a spiritual education for our then 6-year-old daughter Keely. The only church we went to was Old Ship one Sunday morning. We sat in a back pew and loved the service right from the start. The children were called up for a story and Keely went without hesitation. Then the children were sung out to go across the street for their R.E. classes. Michael and I looked at each other as Keely marched out with all the other children. Where was she going? And with whom? What was going to happen? We were so taken with the service already that we didn't leave our pew, sensing that Keely would be ok. I can't tell you Ken's sermon that day, but I can tell you that I felt like he was reading my mind. Here was someone who shared his view of what life and our planet was about and I could relate! Michael and I went across the street after the service to find Keely, and she was as excited about what she experienced as we were. Again, our search was over.

We started going every Sunday and were made to feel welcome from parishioners of all ages. We soon became involved in teaching, volunteering, and eventually committees. We even attended annual meetings and made pledges before signing the book to become members. With everything that I was getting from Old Ship, I felt the need to give back and share whatever talent I had. And now I have the privilege to serve as a Board member.

What do I love about Old Ship? I love how all ages truly care for each other. I love the messages we hear from Ken, the committee leaders, volunteers, and teachers that give their precious time, the outreach into our extended community and world, the beautiful, thoughtful and inspirational music, the knowledge and nurturing that Keely was given through all the amazing R.E. programs culminating in her Coming of Age this year, a safe place that welcomes all. I love working the events that we have throughout the year and the Summer retreat on the Cape. I love the staff that cares so much about this congregation. I love that we care deeply about the human condition and our fragile planet. I love the kindred souls and dear friends that I have found here.

We first came to Old Ship for our wedding, then returned to find Keely's spiritual nourishment. From the love of this old wooden structure came the love of what goes on inside. I personally found something that I didn't know was missing in my life and am grateful every day to all of you who make it so. As Janet said in her personal statement about why Old Ship, I too leave each week wanting to be a better person.

With Love,
Diane Jordan

Social Justice Council (SJC) News

New Hope for an Old Planet - Viewing party on Feb. 5 at Old Ship

Not long ago a group of United Nations scientists announced that global warming is happening much faster than originally thought. That meant those in the climate movement had to speed up their goals for achieving 100% renewable energy from 2050 to 2030.



That's the bad news. The good news is that a climate organization, which has been around for awhile, but largely unnoticed, suddenly has exploded into the news thanks to our recent mid-term election, which loosed on Congress lots of young progressives, who are fully aware of the climate crisis and the need to address it immediately. Its purpose is to create a Green New Deal, and many of its newest members hail from another organization known as Sunrise, most of whom are schoolchildren. Chapters of Sunrise are all over the country, including Boston, which, with their partners, is sponsoring watch parties, on Feb. 5, about themselves and the Green New Deal movement.

Old Ship's Green Sanctuary Committee has endorsed, and believes wholeheartedly, in the power Green New Deal is infusing into the climate movement. Because we feel this good news is so important and so inspiring we will be hosting a watch party in Fellowship Hall at the Parish House, next Tuesday, February 5, beginning at 7 p.m.

Submitted by Connie Gorfinkle

The Father Bill's Cooking Teams need Cooks and Salad Makers

For more than 30 years, Old Shippers have helped serve the needs of the homeless in our area by providing dinner meals at Father Bill's Place shelter in Quincy. There are six teams, each of which is responsible for providing trays of a Main Dish or a Salad four times per year on either Mondays or Thursdays. The dates are set well in advance and it is possible to prepare and freeze your main dish in advance (recipes are provided). You are invited to help serve at Father Bill's (a rewarding experience) or you can prepare your dish and drop off earlier that day or arrange with another team member to get it there.



Additional cooks are needed for both Monday and Thursday teams. Contact Brenda Black blackpollara@verizon.net or 781-740-2835 if you are interested or have questions.

Special Guest Speaker and Social Justice Plate Collection, Sunday February 24

Our collection this month will go to The International Institute of New England (IINE), an organization that provides humanitarian relief, education, skills training, job placement, family reunification and pathways to citizenship for 2,000 immigrants and refugees each year. Social Justice Forum, Sunday February 24th at 12 noon in the Parlor. Andrea Spake of IINE and Meg Glazer, founder South Shore Action's Meals and Conversation Program will present on "How you can get involved to make an impact on immigration and refugee issues, everything from volunteer initiatives, to financial support, to advocating for

policy changes and changes in the business sector." Note: Arising from the Women's March and started as part of South Shore Action's Immigration Justice focus, "Meals and Conversations" provides a monthly lunch and volunteers with whom to practice conversational English for 125 English language learners at Boston's IINE office. Next Meals and Conversation, Thursday, Feb 21.

If you would like to help with donating food, helping prepare the lunch, and/or join the group going to Boston to talk with 125 English language students at the IINE office contact Meg Glazer meggglazer@gmail.com or 617.290.6322

Serving Others through bringing a non-perishable food item for 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 in 2019. 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. In December our donations totaled 84lbs. Foods especially needed by the Pantry in February:

- Canned spaghetti or ravioli
- Canned stew
- Strawberry or grape jelly
- Pasta sauce
- Rice or rice side dishes



U.U. Urban Ministry

Based in Roxbury, "the UU Urban Ministry unites communities and transforms 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."

- Ongoing: Join Old Shippers who volunteer once a month with UUUM's (UU Urban Ministry) Fair Foods affordable food distribution at UUUM headquarters at 10 Putnam St in Roxbury. Email pamharty@comcast.net to be connected with them.
- February 2: 9am youth and adults will participate in "Seeing Me in the World" when they will explore and deepen their faith from this perspective and engage with critical issues of our time: the history of racism in America, in Roxbury, and in Unitarian Universalism, and the current issues facing our changing neighborhood now at risk of gentrification. (for details contact Sarah Hurley hurleystings@yahoo.com)
- February 12 6pm: Community Supper and facilitated reading!! Mimi Jones, long-time Roxbury civil rights activist and community organizer, will read from Dorothy Height's "Open Wide the Freedom Gates" and Dr Carter Woodson's "Mis-education of the

Green Sanctuary

We were among an engaged and inspired audience this past weekend attending the two training sessions given by the UU College of Social Justice and UU Mass Action representatives on organizing our congregations for faith in action. A key message that resonated with me was how essential it is to frame our work in the context of our religious spirituality.

For Green Sanctuary this framework is our mission to protect all elements of our precious Web of Life from what is now recognized as an existential danger: the man-made threat of runaway global warming. While the "Big Picture" context is daunting we have already demonstrated that strategic action by a small band of Old Ship activists convinced the Hingham Light Plant to convert Hingham's electricity to 100% "Fossil Fuel Free." At Hingham's last town meeting Hingham's Energy Action Committee won approval of the town to seek certification as a Green Community. Last month their application was approved. This will provide state funds to help improve energy efficiency in town facilities. In discussions with Tom Mayo, the town

administrator, it appears the time is ripe for Hingham to go beyond "Green Community" and join other MA towns in the quest for "Net Zero" status where all of the elements of energy use in town can become carbon free. Our goal would be to campaign with like minded allies such as local organizations, businesses, religious congregations to support a town meeting warrant article to catalyze a town study group to launch this transformation. The goal would be a successful warrant article in the 2020 town meeting. The towns of Cambridge and Lexington have done this and others are working on it. We have the people in our congregation who can help to make this happen, we have civic organizations who can be recruited to the cause. Success with these campaigns across the state could take the market for energy away from the petroleum industry and save Mother Earth. We look forward to hearing from anyone interested.

Turner Bledsoe - Chair, Green Sanctuary

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

Coffeehouse off the Square

Saturday, February 16th at 8pm in the Fellowship Hall -Jay Psaros

Just nominated for "Male Performer of the Year" for the 2018 New England Music Awards, Jay has been called a "storyteller of precision," a "masterful guitarist," and a musical "painter of beautiful rolling images." You can hear these on all four of his CDs, each critically acclaimed and earning him supporting spots with such national acts as Third Eye Blind, Ziggy Marley, Los Lonely Boys, and Boz Scaggs, to name but a few. So mark your calendar and hurry over, this is your chance to catch up with him up close and local.

www.jaypsarosmusic.com Note: Proceeds from Coffee House on the Square performances benefit the UU Service Committee

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. Next SJC meeting will be Sat, March 2, at 9 am in the Parlor.

Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

Painting, Drawing, Seeing... Together four Friday evenings in February

Beverly Tricco

Feb. 1, 8, 15, 22

"... spiritual truths often arrive wearing unexpected disguises. It's wrong to assume that the only way to get "there" is by sitting in deep meditation on a mountaintop. True, that method might work for you, but there are limitless ways to arrive at some of the deeper understandings about the nature of Life that don't require walking traditional routes..." - Christopher Palibicki

We'll paint, draw and see together once a week and see where our spiritual journey takes us. Bring your own work and supplies, or I will provide assignments and supplies for you. All media, and modalities are welcome... and absolutely all skill levels. For more information and to sign up contact Beverly at [bev's email link](#). We are happy to arrange care for babies and toddlers if you let us know in advance.

Labyrinth Walk, Saturday, February 23, noon

Have you ever been curious about the Labyrinth over at the Parish House? Please join us to learn the rich history of the Labyrinth followed by an introduction to walking the Labyrinth in meditation. Event will take place at the end of February. If you are interested in attending please contact Karen Churchill

Looking ahead:

Africa: Contributions to World Culture

three sessions, Wednesday evenings, 7:00, April 10, 17, 24, led by William Clark

The class will explore "Hidden History of European Advancement" leading perhaps to additional sessions focusing on the so-called New World, looking at the present possible futures which lie before us and possibly our descendants. For more info and to sign up, contact William at wclarkhing@msn.com.

Spring Poetry - Native American Poets

five sessions, Wed., May 1- 29, 1:00 and 7:00

led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown

Our annual spring poetry class, held this year just after National Poetry month, will be exploring the work and life of Native American poets. For more info and to sign up, contact Elizabeth (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com) or Ken (oldshipkreb@gmail.com).

Other ongoing groups and gatherings....

[Link here](#) to the page on our web site that includes descriptions of all these groups: from opportunities to meditate and study spiritual texts ancient and modern as described above, to the Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

Youth Group

The Youth Group will be participating in a Service and Learning Trip in April. This year the youth would like to invite any interested adults to join them with the understanding that this will be a youth centered Service and Learning trip with youth culture at the forefront of all experiences. They look forward to sharing with you a meaningful week of purposeful service and learning!

Details listed below. Please direct any questions and interest to Beverly Tricco or Sarah Hurley.

LOCATION:

Burlington, VT

DATES:

Saturday, April 13 - Friday, April 19

TRANSPORTATION:

by car

LODGING:

Burlington Hostel

Burlington Hostel - Burlington, Vermont

ESTIMATED COST:

\$450

BURLINGTON COMMUNITY PARTNERS:

First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington

Home - First Unitarian Universalist Society of Burlington

Outright VT

The Mission of Outright Vermont is to build safe, healthy, and supportive environments for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning youth ages 13-22.

<http://www.outrightvt.org/>

Milk With Dignity

The Milk with Dignity campaign builds a movement of farm workers and allies calling on dairy companies to ensure respect for human rights in their supply chains by joining the worker-driven Milk with Dignity Program.

Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

VYCC is a 501(c)3 non-profit conservation, agricultural, and education youth organization with the mission of teaching young people personal responsibility through meaningful work that connects us to the land, community, and one another. VYCC programs operate year-round, throughout Vermont and beyond.

Food and Farm | Vermont Youth Conservation Corps

Green Mountain Club

The mission of the Green Mountain Club is to make the Vermont mountains play a larger part in the life of the people by protecting and maintaining the Long Trail System and fostering, through education, the stewardship of Vermont's hiking trails and mountains.

<https://www.greenmountainclub.org/>

A New Place

Our mission is to provide a holistic continuum of services for the homeless, centered in love and dignity, that foster growth, cultivate community engagement, and provide tools for lifelong change so that each person may start anew.

<https://www.anewplacevt.org/>

Office Notes

Question: How can I find out what is happening at Old Ship?

Answer: Old Ship communicates with members and friends in a number of ways:

The oldshipchurch.org website is updated weekly with fresh content on events and services. There is a monthly newsletter sent out via email. It is posted on our website, but the "Joys/Concerns" section is taken out for the website version. Weekly, an email is sent out that has the next Sunday service information and events that are happening that week only. There are paper copies of the monthly newsletter in the vestibule of the Meeting House and on a table outside the office.

We also use social media. Old Ship posts daily on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram. The staff work hard to keep information current.

And if you still have a question about what is happening? Call the office!

- Julianna Dunn, Office Administrator.

Warm Hearts - Hot Potatoes - Sunday, February 10

It's that time of year when we warm each other with love and the Youth Group warms the tummies of the congregation with hot potatoes!

During fellowship hour, for a very modest price per potato, the Youth Group will be dishing up baked potatoes with all the fixings, chili and salad. This fundraiser has become a favorite annual tradition so please come join us.



[Forward this email](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [About our service provider](#)

Sent by office@oldshipchurch.org in collaboration with

