



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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January 2019 Newsletter

**February newsletter deadline is
Monday, January 28.**

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

Worship

Sunday, January 6 10:25am

"The Old Man's Calendar" will be Ken's sermon as we begin the new year. The title is taken from a sermon by our third minister, Ebenezer Gay, who preached this message on his 85th birthday. His reflections on the meaning of our lives in the shadow of our mortality, though couched in his theological assumptions, have universal relevance. Ken's sermon will also serve as an introduction to his winter class beginning on January 9 based on Gay's reflections (see details elsewhere in the newsletter).



Sunday, January 13, 10:25am

"Leaping into the New Year": this service for all ages will be held in our Fellowship Hall and give us all an opportunity to reflect on the year gone by and on our hopes and resolutions for the year to come.

Sunday, January 20, 10:25am

"Not to Weary in Well Doing" - will be Ken's sermon. These words, lifted from Ebenezer Gay's 18th century sermon "The Old Man's Calendar," are a reminder these centuries later that there is much for us to do in this world of ours during whatever years are given us to right wrongs and improve lives. Martin Luther King, Jr., certainly lived accordingly during his much too brief years. What about us?

Sunday, January 27, 10:25am

This will be our annual pulpit exchange with Second Parish in Hingham (UU). Ken will be preaching at Second Parish, and Rev. Stephanie Shute Kelsch will be preaching at Old Ship. Stephanie's sermon will be "Voices - Frankenstein and his Monster." Mary Shelley's 200-year-old thriller raises many questions, many of them questions that still plague us - such as how and to whom we listen. This sermon will explore some of these questions with focus on what responsibilities we have to those unheard.

Mark your calendar for Dave Egan's ordination service!

On Sunday, February 3, at 3:00, our First Parish Old Ship along with the congregation of the Canton UU church will ordain Dave to the Unitarian Universalist ministry at a service to be held in our Old Ship Meeting House. Dave served as our intern last year and as intern in Canton the year before. He is currently the Director of Family Ministry at the Arlington Street Church in Boston, as

well as the Program Director for the Friday Night Supper Program, a weekly meal served to the homeless community in Boston.

Ken's upcoming sabbatical plans

Ken Read-Brown will begin a regularly scheduled two month sabbatical at the end of February. Most Sunday worship services for this period have already been planned, and a full calendar of services and contacts in Ken's absence will be shared in the February and March newsletters. UU ministers routinely take sabbaticals every 5-7 years.

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

One of my favorite Christmas carols (perhaps yours too) is "Joy to the World." But after a lifetime of singing the carols, it's possible to sing without thinking much about the words. Well, one of the beautiful things about "Joy to the World" is that the words are not only about the joy of the human world during the holiday season; they also herald the joy of the natural world. The refrain of the first verse is "And heav'n and nature sing"; and the second verse has "...rocks, hills, and plains, repeat the sounding joy."

The implicit message here is that the "world" - in traditional language "God's world" - is not just the human world, but is also the world of earth and sky and all that lives between earth and sky.

It is, after all, all too easy to think of ourselves as inhabiting a world, as living on the earth; whereas the truth of the matter is that we are part of the world, that we are not on, but are of the earth along with every other living thing. This is not a harmless matter of mere semantics. Quite the contrary. For thinking and behaving as if we are just residents on the earth rather than part and parcel of the earth has proven to be dangerous to the health of the other living things with whom we share life. As it is turning out, this is also dangerous to our own well-being as a species, as climate change increasingly harms all life.

But as we enter a New Year, it is important to note the hopeful part of the human story. This has to do with a huge difference between the human species and all other life. So far as we know, we humans are the only species that is aware of the effect our behavior has on the earth and on other living things. This means that we are also the only species that can choose to be more responsible in relation to the web of life of which we are a part. We do, after all (as one scientifically reputable report after another makes clear), have more than enough evidence of the effect we have been having on the health of the earth and in particular of the earth's climate, and more than enough knowledge to

enable us to chart a course in the direction of a healthier future for our grandchildren's lives and for all life. What better time than the turning of the year to act on what we know?

One of the hymns that we sing all year long is "For the Beauty of the Earth." Each verse celebrates nature's gifts - "hill and vale and tree and flower..." along with the joy, wonder, and "mystic harmony" those gifts bring to us. Then the refrain sings "Source of all, to thee we raise, this our hymn of grateful praise."

Well, it seems to me that this "praise" is empty if as we sing we are complicit in turning the beauty of the earth ugly and in making the earth itself uninhabitable for one beautiful species after another - perhaps eventually even our own. But the "praise" is full-throated and full-hearted if it moves us to care more deeply for the earth and every creature therein, if it moves us to act intelligently and passionately to navigate that better course - this year and for all years to come.

Wishing you all a New Year filled with blessings of earth and sky, blessings of kindness and love.

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.

MLK Meal Packing Day of Service

The Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association is once again sponsoring the packing of over 50,000 meals for local food pantries and homeless shelters on MLK's National Day of Service, Monday, January 21. All ages are welcome to help at St. John the Evangelist, 172 Main Street, Hingham from 9am-1pm. Visit <https://give.classy.org/mlkday> to make a financial contribution toward the food. A quarter feeds a kid, \$1 a South Shore family of 4.

More info at Facebook.com/EndHungerNE or <http://outreachprogram.org>.

Location: St. John's 172 Main Street, Hingham - just up the street from Old Ship

To sign up to volunteer:
<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094facad2ba3f58-mlkmeal1>

Religious Education Notes

Dear Old Ship,

I'm back from sabbatical and feeling "all about" fresh starts... just in time for the New Year and New Year's resolutions...

This Sunday, January 6th, the children and Youth will be doing our customary Jumping Fire and Flying Wish Paper... Next Sunday, January 13th, you all will be invited to do the same, during our multi-gen worship, led by Ken, Chris and myself.

If you're looking for inspiration of ways to boldly address 2019 in more personal ways, I offer you this list, written over 50 years ago by a Unitarian Universalist minister, the late Reverend Lee Reid.

TO DO LIST

Mend a quarrel.
 Seek out a forgotten friend.
 Dismiss suspicion, and replace it with trust.
 Write a love letter.
 Share some treasure.
 Give a soft answer.
 Offer encouragement.
 Manifest your loyalty in word and deed.
 Keep a promise.
 Find the time.
 Forgive an enemy.
 Listen.
 Apologize if you are wrong.
 Try to understand.
 Flout envy.
 Examine your demands on others.
 Think first of someone else.
 Appreciate.
 Be kind; be gentle.
 Laugh a little.
 Laugh a little more.
 Deserve confidence.
 Take up arms against malice.
 Decry complacency.
 Express your gratitude.
 Welcome a stranger.
 Gladden the heart of a child.
 Take pleasure in the beauty and wonder of the earth.
 Speak your love.
 Speak it again.
 Speak it still once again.

Looking respectfully backward, and then leaping boldly forward...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

From the Music Director

A new year is upon us! Many thanks to the Old Ship Choir for singing so beautifully on Christmas Eve! They put in a lot of work behind the scenes, learning the music at home and rehearsing all throughout December-I am grateful for their camaraderie and dedication.

The choir has much planned for the new year-watch this space! We will be collaborating with the youth again on our next Vespers service on February 9 at 5:30pm.

A very happy New Year to you all!

Chris

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.



There are specifically three 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?

Companionship: Would you be willing to spend a few hours now and then with an Old Ship member when the primary caregiver in their household needs to be away from the home for a short while?

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

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

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

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 (oldshipkreb@gmail.com) or Ivy Butterworth (781-749-3190 or ivy_butter@yahoo.com) for more information or to answer any questions/concerns.

Social Justice Council (SJC) News

Faith in Action: Living Our Values, Building Our Vision

Saturday, January 26, 2019 9:15AM-3PM - here at Old Ship

You are invited to a special program helping UUs to learn how to better advocate for the world we wish to see! Faith in Action: Organizing Effective Justice Ministry Teams presented by the UU College of Social Justice (10:00 AM-12 Noon):

In a political climate hostile to human rights, environmental protection, and even to the truth, we want to show up and speak out in ways that will make a difference. This workshop explores how we can better organize ourselves to harness the power at the intersection of faith and justice.

Climate Justice and Action presented by UU Mass Action (1:00 PM-3 PM):

The impacts of the climate crisis effects us all, but some communities bear the burden fossil fuels use more acutely than others. This workshop includes an overview of the MA 2008 Global Warming Solutions Act, discussion on achieving 100% renewable energy by 2050 and why we must prioritize equity in all that we do.

You are welcome to come to part or to the full program. There is no charge for the event which will be held in the Fellowship Hall. A continental breakfast and lunch will be provided.

To register: contact Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790

For

details :http://www.oldshipchurch.org/uploads/3/4/4/6/34464488/faith_in_action_program.pdf.

Serving Others by 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.

We are happy to report that our donations to the pantry have increased over last year and the Pantry wrote in December: "Our Thanksgiving Pantry was a great success as a direct result of the generosity of the members of our community. We were able to provide our clients with a delicious Thanksgiving dinner and groceries for the month."

Fall 2018 our donations to the Hingham Food Pantry totaled:

Sept - 55 lbs

Oct. - 73 lbs

Nov - 146 lbs

Click here for the full list of items the pantry needs: <http://www.oldshipchurch.org/opportunities-to-serve.html>

Green Sanctuary

We call to your attention the special program on January 26th and hope that you will attend to learn more about how to organize successful social justice actions and understanding the social justice impact of global climate change (described above).

Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore Holiday Party

Thank you to all Old Shippers who donated to our Social Justice Special Plate in November and who helped with cooking, serving, and holding babies for the Holiday Party on December 13th. It was a joyous event, full of good food and fun for the families who were very appreciative!
U.U. Urban Ministry

Looking for ways to deepen your anti-racism commitment and learning? Join the many ways to support the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry, based in Roxbury. 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." If you are curious about other ways to be in community with the UUUM in Boston, click here to learn more about their other opportunities.

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.

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

Ry Cavanaugh & Jennifer Kimball
January 19th 8pm in the Fellowship Hall

Ry is best known for founding Session Americana, & Jennifer was half of The Story. Each have released solo records. Now these two great talented singers, writers, & players can be seen & heard together in a very exciting duet experience. 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 1/5/2019 at 9 am in the Parlor.

Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

Ebenezer Gay's Lessons for Living

six sessions, Wed. Jan. 9- Feb. 13, 1:00 and 7:00 - Ken Read-Brown

Old Ship's third minister, Ebenezer Gay, served from 1718-1787. On the occasion of his 85th birthday he preached a sermon he titled "The Old Man's Calendar" in which, noting the brevity and uncertainty of our lives, he offered advice and counsel not only for the aged but for his younger listeners as well. Though the language and assumed Christian theology reflect Gay's time and place, the messages of his seven lessons are enduring and universal. Ken writes: "I've been pondering and writing in relation to Gay's oft reprinted sermon for many years, and I look forward to continuing these spiritual and ethical explorations in this year's 'winter class.' Our journey through Gay's sermon will lead us, among other things, to explore the ways in which his reflections resonate within religious traditions other than Gay's Christianity, including Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism. Email Ken with questions or to sign up:

[ken's email](#)

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.

Nurturing Community

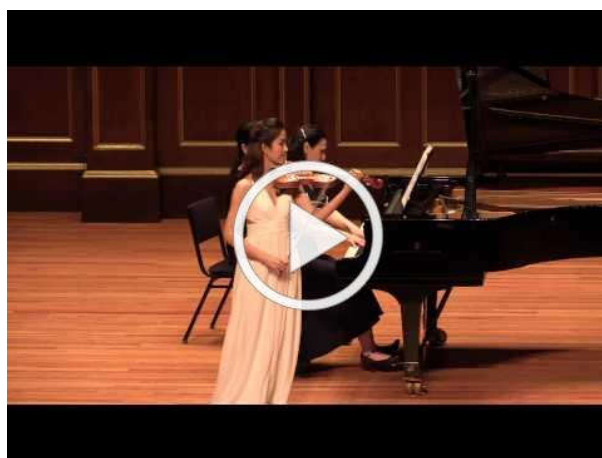
Thanks to the Carolers!

A hardy band (actually a chorus) of carolers went forth on a cold December Saturday afternoon to sing and bring joy to residents of Allerton House assisted living and Harbor House Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. Many thanks to all: Pat Bianco and her granddaughter Lexi, Frank Cheney, Eric Cornetta and his daughter Liza, Donna Ekstrand, Beth Lilly, Peter Lochtefeld, Cynthia McKeon and David White, and Ken Read-Brown.

Candlelight Concert on Sunday, January 27, 4pm

In the depths of winter, we are all looking for something to brighten these short days. The January Candlelight Concert is just the answer. Yoojin Jang and Renana Gutman, an extraordinary violin-and-piano duo, will present 19th-and 20th-century works "with fiery virtuosity." Ms. Jang, a native of Korea, is being hailed as one of the new generation's brightest young string virtuosi. Ms. Gutman, a native of Israel, has performed across four continents as an orchestral soloist, recitalist and collaborative artist. This very special concert, which will be held on Sunday, January 27 at 4:00 in the Meeting House, will be presented free of charge; your contribution is welcome.

Here is a clip from a concert in Jordan Hall in Boston, MA



Sibelius Pieces for Violin and Piano, Op. 79 Yoojin Jang

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

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