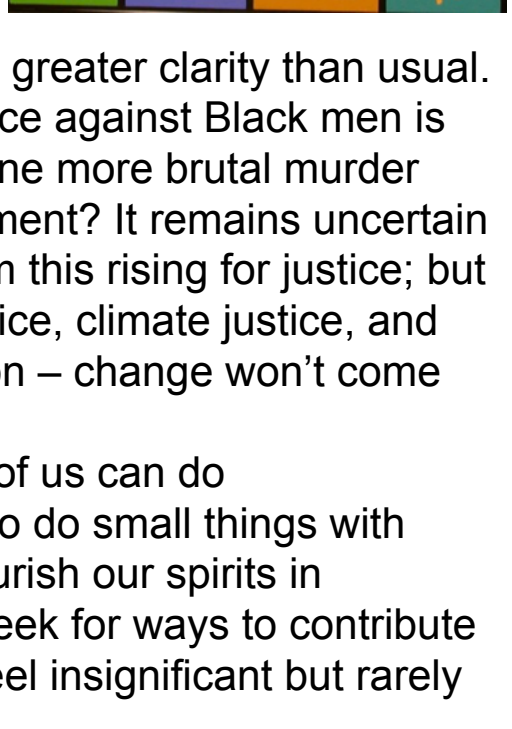


July 2020 Old Ship Newsletter

Visit our Website

Important note - please read :
During July and August and at least through Labor Day, the Fellowship Hall, Kitchen, and downstairs bathrooms in the Parish House are completely off-limits to all but Launch program students and staff. This is to enable Launch, this state-funded program that rents from us five days a week, to follow mandated COVID-19 restrictions and guidelines - for the safety of everyone.
Thank you for your understanding.

from the minister's desk
Musing
Back in March or April (seems like a long time ago doesn't it...), I wrote that the coronavirus pandemic is reinforcing the truth preached in Buddhism that everything is uncertain. Naturally enough we appreciate things in life we can depend on, but it is also true that life is indeed always to one extent or another uncertain, unpredictable, and always changing. The pandemic has just brought this truth home to us with greater clarity than usual.
So has the testing for racial justice. Police violence against Black men is not a new story, but who could have predicted that one more brutal murder would have led to a potentially transformative movement? It remains uncertain just how much change for the better will emerge from this rising for justice; but one thing is for sure: whether it comes to racial justice, climate justice, and every other movement for human rights and liberation - change won't come unless we help it to come.
No one of us can do everything, but every one of us can do something. As Mother Teresa taught, we are called to do small things with great love. So, this summer and always, may we nourish our spirits in whatever way we need to, as at the same time we seek for ways to contribute to the greater good - often in small ways that may feel insignificant but rarely are.



This leads me to offer deep gratitude for the multitude of small things that Beverly Tricco has done with great love for the smaller and not-so-small members of our Old Ship community for the past twelve years. We have said countless hopes and dreams for the future, and she has lived in the lives of the children and youth she has influenced over all these years through her care and compassion, and through the model of her commitment to social justice. Whatever the next chapter of your life brings for you, Beverly, may it be filled with, to use your words, "bright blessings"! Thank you, Beverly.

Peace and blessings,
Ken

*p.s. As always, I wish you and your dear ones health and safety. Keep taking care of each other with calls and emails and notes; take care of yourself too - this summer and always. And never hesitate to be in touch with me (781-635-2066; ken@oldship.org;) and to share some music. (Our music director's position is from September - June, so we will miss Christopher!) Click on the same link we've been using these past few months to be brought to our Old Ship YouTube page for the **Sunday live-stream** - https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCr1tHwL_MfGcP59Ft6XCoF4d4. Each week, we are invited to send joys, sorrows, or concerns by Saturday to Ken for our usual candle lighting: oldshipkrb@gmail.com*

Then, at about 11:00 there will be a **Zoom "summer service" gathering** with a message from an Old Ship volunteer worship leader, followed by conversation - just like our usual in-person summer services. The Zoom link for this part of our Sunday morning is: <https://us02zn2bsh.zoom.us/j/8602936193?pwd=ZlZkd04yYUk0aHFnRjUuYVh0ZzZ09>

Sunday, July 5
Ken's message in our live-streamed YouTube service will be "Independence for Whom?" - reflecting on Frederick Douglass's 1852 speech which includes the oft-quoted line, "What, to the American slave, is your 4th of July?".
Then, in our "Summer Service" Zoom time, Ken will invite us to appreciate the spirit of a Quaker style meeting for worship, during which we are invited to silence and then speaking from the silence as the spirit moves us.
Sunday, July 12
Ken's theme for our live-streamed YouTube service will be "Beyond the Finish Line."
Old Ship member and chair of the Worship and Music Committee Karen Churchill will be the "Summer Service" presenter during our Zoom time. Her topic will be: "Finding the Strength to Rise."
Sunday, July 19
During our live-streamed YouTube service Ken will share poetry that nourishes his spirit - and perhaps yours too.
Old Ship member and poet Elizabeth Torrey will be our "Summer Service" presenter during our Zoom time - with her annual summer poetry service.
Sunday, July 26
Ken's theme for the live-streamed service on YouTube, taken from one of our hymns, will be "When Hope is Hard to Find."
Old Ship member Rick Mattila will be the "Summer Service" presenter during our Zoom time.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R.E. NOTES
June 25, 2020

Dear Old Ship...
I've been a religious educator for twenty-five years, and been here at Old Ship for twelve, and I bet very few of you can remember me quoting from the Bible. And those that might have heard me "refer" to biblical passages, probably wince at what a hash I made of it. I like to think I remember the important concepts, but I admit freely that I do a terrible job with the word-for-word. So, from the internet, I give you: Corinthians:1-3
1. *If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.*
2. *If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing.*
3. *If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.*

I'm as surprised as you are that these are my parting words in this platform, but here we are.
I think it's because I'm remembering something someone said when I left my previous DRE position. A lovely man, an engineer, who is still a mainstay of the church, said plaintively, and in all earnestness, "Who will talk to the kids once you're gone?"
I was too surprised and non-plussed to give a good answer, so I guess I'm doing it now.

I had read, in my professional development studies, or perhaps my parenting studies, that children learn better, in fact all of us learn better, when we are in rapport... *"Trust between teachers and students is the affective glue that binds educational relationships together. Not trusting teachers has several consequences for students. They are unwilling to submit themselves to the perilous uncertainties of new learning. They avoid risk. They keep their most deeply felt concerns private. They view with cynical reserve the exhortations and instructions of teachers."* (p. 162) Stephen Brookfield's 1990 book, The Skillful Teacher.

And of course, most of us have heard Maya Angelou's quote: "I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel."
Well, I knew from the start, I could never make you all feel loved, or even heard; there are over two hundred of you and only one of me. So I focused on the children and youth and never apologized for that. I still don't. Whatever else we may or may not have taught the children and youth, if they left our programs knowing that they were loved, then we did our jobs. I did my job. They will do better in the big world because of it.
So I guess my last words to you are these:
Love the Old Ship kids and youth... **YOU**... **YOU** do it.
The new DRE will be part-time, and interim, with interim-work to do, and she's starting in a pandemic. So, **YOU** do it.
They are the present AND the future of our church and our denomination... so love them.
Figure it out... spend the time... build rapport...
You can do it... and you should.
Don't be a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal.

*Good-bye and bright blessings,
Beverly Tricco*

Sunday Morning for Young Kids with Debbie - begins at 9:30 a.m.:
Used to be "with Beverly and Debbie. Beverly has retired, and we miss her already, but Sunday mornings continue with Debbie! We will light a virtual candle, read books, play games, and be together. Ennis. Debbie for the Zoom link: douireslee@gmail.com.

Life Learning

Ongoing groups on Zoom

Bodhisattva Study Group - will continue to gather every Sunday morning this summer from 8:30 - 9:30, meditation for about twenty minutes, reading aloud, then conversation. All are welcome. *Weekly readings will be provided in the zoom invitation.* From now through Labor Day, the group will be hosted and facilitated by Catherine Mayes, Laurie Sprague, and Kitty Ward. Newcomers are always welcome; no experience with Buddhism or meditation is required. For the Zoom link for these summer gatherings, email catherinesmayes@aol.com

Men's Breakfast - gathers on the second Sunday morning of each month at 8:30 for sharing and conversation. The next gathering will be July 11. Contact Ralph Brown (ralph.brown@gmail.com) or Rich Elliott (richelliott56@gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

Women's Breakfast - will be taking a break for the summer and resume in September. Email Ivy Butterworth for more information and for the Zoom link (ivy_butter@yahoo.com).

Ceilidh!
Our first Tuesday of the month song/poem circle will be gathering on Zoom on Tuesday evening, July 7 at 7:00. Email Ken for the Zoom link if you'd like to attend: oldshipkrb@gmail.com.

Sacred Texts Meditation Group - will take a break over the summer and resume in September, gathering on the second and fourth Thursday of each month at 4:00. We sit for about ten minutes meditation, then read a chapter from the Tao Te Ching, then we talk, concluding at about 5:15. All are welcome. For the Zoom link, email Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

New Life Learning offering:

Monthly Anti-Racism Book Group at Old Ship begins on September 20 - led by Davalene Cooper
Would you like to learn more about how to be an anti-racist activist? Learn more about how our society, our world, is structured around white supremacy? Learn more about our racist American history? Learn how we could advocate for a more diverse future? And one that is safer for all people, but especially for persons of color. This fall, we will begin a monthly book group at Old Ship (via Zoom) that will explore these questions, and many others. The group will alternate between fictional and non-fictional works, written primarily, if not exclusively, by persons of color. The first two books are Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi (fiction) and How To Be An Antiracist by Ibram X. Kendi (non-fiction). We will discuss Homegoing at our September meeting and How to Be An Antiracist at our October meeting. (I am sharing this information now in case you want to begin reading, or re-reading, this summer!) After these first two meetings, participants will choose the books we will read.
If you would like to join this book group, let me know at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790. Our first meeting will be on Monday, September 20, at 7 p.m. However, I am open to other dates and times that might be more convenient for those who are taking the class. Once I know the participants, we will revisit the date and time, but for that first meeting, let's plan on **September 20 at 7 p.m.** And if you have any questions or comments, just contact me.

Stay tuned for additional Life Learning opportunities for 2020-2019!
Life Learning programs will most likely be on Zoom, but our Old Ship Learning Committee hopes our offerings will be as rich as always. We intend to have a full schedule to share with you by the end of the summer.
If you have ideas for upcoming classes or workshops, please contact a member of the committee:
Ralph Brown, Rich Elliott, Claire Petrie, Elizabeth Torrey, Ken Read-Brown

Interim DRE to start in August
Later in July we will introduce to you our Interim Director of Religious Education, Chloe Briede. Chloe begins in August, and we very much look forward to having her with us during the coming year, as we reflect on the past, present, and future of our religious education program.

Parish House Finance Conversation
During our Annual Meeting it was voted to reduce the line item associated with the Parish House to \$5,000 and have a separate meeting about the Parish House finances.
The Board of Trustees has scheduled a congregational conversation via Zoom on Saturday, July 11, from 10:00 - 11:00 a.m.
The purpose of this meeting is to discuss what needs to be done to repair the Parish House and how much it will cost. There will be no votes taken at this meeting.
A Zoom invitation will be sent out several days prior to the meeting.
We hope you can join us on Saturday, July 11, at 10:00 a.m.!

COVID-19 and the Parish House: One Old Ship member's opinion
On Saturday, July 11, the parish will have a meeting about the Parish House, and, in a way, COVID-19 will be present. If you had asked me six months ago I would have said that after a successful capital campaign to make necessary repairs to the Parish House, we could then afford to keep it maintained... Then came COVID-19 and the beginning of an economic recession, and out went any hope of a capital campaign!
The need for repairs to the shell of the building is immediate and pressing - and expensive. If we can't repair it with campaign money, it will continue to deteriorate. I never thought I would give up wanting to hold on to the Parish House, but the lack of money to fix it takes away our choice. What we could not decide, COVID-19 has decided for us.
This is just one person's opinion, and it's expressed to encourage older and wiser heads to think about the subject. --*Fan Leonard*

From the Pastoral Care Team

Dear Old Ship Community,

As a member of the Pastoral Care Committee I am writing to remind and ask all of you to take time this summer to reach out to friends and members of our beloved community. These are lonely times and to know that someone is thinking of you via a phone call or a letter can brighten their day. Look at our congregational list and reach out to one another. We can't physically be together at this time, but simple efforts can bring us closer. --*Diane Elliott*

BY Karen G. Johnston
Humans make maps of stars,
choosing some stars, ignoring others,
to project our imaginations onto the heavens.
These maps shift over time, across cultures.
Names change for the same assemblage of bright points:
Drinking Gourd, Big Dipper, Plough, Lost Hunters (Cherokee), Saptarishi (Tibetan).
Humans make constellations by connecting stars.
Humans make meaning by connecting stories:
story to story to narrative to story.
Some blaze bright, some are faint.
Most are backdrop to the great and mundane human unfolding.
Let us imagine the stories of our lives
as a starry universe above our heads.
As leaders of this congregation,
we are tasked and trusted
to draw constellations in this,
our beloved, small universe.
May the stories we connect
draw constellations
that reflect a shared ministry
that calls out the best in us.

Wishing you all the best: Diane Elliott and the Pastoral Care Team: Joan Wilson, Fan Leonard, Elaine Gomez, Liz Flint, Ralph Brown, Alicia Harkness, Ken Read-Brown

Memorial Garden Invitation

The Memorial Garden Committee invites visitors to enjoy the soothing sounds of the running fountain and the beautiful garden beds this summer. Benches are available for quiet meditation. (You can find the Garden right around the back of the Meeting House.)

Social Justice Council News

Anti-Racism Work

We know that many Old Shippers are engaging with various aspects of anti-racism work during this critical time. If you are looking for additional ways to be involved, check out the website for the UU Urban Ministry at www.uuum.org. You might especially want to read the statement from the UUUM Board of Directors at http://www.uuum.org/?page_id=8457. One thing for the UUUM for the future is how might we engage more directly with UUUM and its programs. You can learn more about the Hingham Unity Council and its activities at: <https://www.facebook.com/hinghamunitycouncil/>.
The UUA has resources related to anti-racism work at: <https://www.uua.org/pressroom/press-releases/stop-calling-police-start-creating-antiracism>. Likewise, UUMass Action has releases and action steps at: <https://www.uumassaction.org/>.

UU the Vote

The UUA has launched a new initiative for the 2020 elections. The "UU the Vote" webpage and resources can be found at <https://www.uua.org/library/discussionforum>. We will consider how Old Ship might participate in this initiative as the year progresses. Contact Davalene Cooper, davalenecooper@verizon.net, if you have ideas for us at Old Ship. One activity that many of us have done is to send "Get Out the Vote" postcards to areas where voter suppression is a particular problem. Let Davalene know if you would like to be informed of postcard opportunities.

Green Sanctuary

Last month, Old Ship was accredited as a Green Sanctuary from the UUA. As part of our commitment to being "green," we invite to consider and perhaps try new ways to reduce your personal carbon footprint. Hingham Net Zero, a citizen's group working to reduce the town's carbon footprint, has prepared a series of presentations and other materials to help residents learn how they can adopt a low carbon lifestyle and electric technologies thereby dramatically reducing personal/family carbon emissions. Anyone is welcome to go to the Hingham Net Zero website where you will find a menu of "What You Can Do Now" links to informational presentations as well as announcements of upcoming Zoom Chats on these topics: <https://www.hinghamnetzero.org/>
There are many aspects to the Green Sanctuary program—climate change issues, recycling issues, making sure our buildings at Old Ship are as green as possible. If this sounds like something you, or a group of you, would like to be more involved in, contact Davalene Cooper, chair of SJC for the new church year.

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. Also, if you have an action alert to share, contact Davalene Cooper and she will send it out, as long as it meets our criteria. (If it doesn't, she will discuss it with you.)
During this time of COVID—19, we encourage our community to help others in need as much as possible. Here are some ways you can help.

1. **The Hingham Food Pantry** continues to provide food for local families and continues to need donations to do so over the summer months. The pantry has experienced a more than 20% increase in need during the Covid Crisis shutdown. Here are ways you can help:
Donations of non-perishable foods will be accepted at the rear parking lot behind Second Parish, contactless donations made possible by placing your donations into the carts located in the parking lot. See the dates and times donations are accepted below.

The Pantry is currently most in need of the following:
Beef stew
Canned fruit
Granola bars
Peanut butter or cheese sandwich crackers
Granulated sugar (one or two-pound bags or boxes)
Grape or strawberry jelly
Canned spaghetti

Donations are accepted on
Monday, 6/29 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, 7/13 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, 7/27 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, 8/3 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, 8/17 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
Monday, 8/31 from 2:30 p.m. to 4 p.m.
and Wednesday, 7/1 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 7/15 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 7/29 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 8/5 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 8/19 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.
Wednesday, 9/2 from 12:30 p.m. to 2 p.m.

You can also donate online through <https://act.upstream.org>. Items needed to be sent to Brooke Bartletta (note the "t" in Bartletta), 52 Fearling Road, Hingham, MA 02043. Monetary donations are also always welcome. Checks may be made out and mailed to: Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043 or Veriing@Brooke-Bartletta.com. If you are in Bartletta with a note of Hingham Food Pantry in the "What's It For" section, Brooke will provide Hingham Food Pantry with a check.

And, if you are experiencing food insecurity, the pantry is ready to help. Call to arrange for a first distribution which can take place on the 2nd and 4th Tuesdays of each month (781-740-8180).

2. **Father Bill's Mainspring** is providing care for homeless individuals in new ways to keep clients safe during the Covid crisis. Mainspring is limiting the number of clients at their Quincy and Brookton shelters to allow for social distancing and many clients are staying in the shelters during the day, requiring additional breakfast and lunch meals. There are several ways you can help: would you or your family group like to donate a single day's meal? prepare bag lunches for a single day? or donate needed toiletry items? help raise funds? See the links below for information about to help in each of these ways:

To donate a meal (by cooking, donating continental breakfast foods, or ordering from a restaurant), contact Mary Ann Mendes to find a date mmendes@helpfirms.org and get delivery instructions. More information regarding meal needs at each site can be found at: <https://helpfirms.org/support/covid19meals/>
To prepare bag lunches, see: https://helpfirms.org/wpcontent/uploads/2020/06/Suggested_Lunches-May-2020-rev.pdf
And to donate other needed items and help in needed ways, see: <https://helpfirms.org/support/coronavirus/>

3. **The Weymouth Food Pantry** is accepting monetary donations at: <https://www.weymouthfoodpantry.org/donation-page>.

4. **Aunt Dot's Kitchen**, the Wellspring food pantry in Hull needs non-perishable foods, as well as fresh produce. Gift cards to supermarkets and monetary donations are also appreciated and greatly appreciated. To donate, go to <https://wellspringgmhlsservice.org/donate/>