The Church, Virginia
Old Ship Church
Presbyterian Church (USA)
127 West Tucker Street, Suite 100
Harrisonburg, VA 22802-3314
www.oldshipchurch.org

June 2021 Newsletter

Thanks Doug Kline, editor and co-pilot of Issue of Mercy

Deadline for Summer newsletter: Friday, June 18

Worship in June

Click here for weekly updates on Worship and ERC for Burlington!

Sunday, June 6
"Roads Taken" — a little derivest, as you might remember from last month's sermon, but also offer insurrectionist power. The Road Not Taken, Robert Frost's famous poem, tells us that it was the wear in which our life paths are influenced by a blend of planning and happenstance.

Sunday, June 13 — New Members Sunday
We will welcome new members and welcome those who have joined Old Ship by signing our Membership Book since our last New Members Sunday in June 2019. If you've been planning to officially join Old Ship, and haven't yet, please let Rick Ryan know. We'll welcome you!

Kent's sermon will be "Strongly Together." What have we learned — or remembered — during the past year about the power and importance of spiritual community.

Our annual **Pride** celebration will be take place from 1:00–3:00 p.m. on the Parish House lawn.

Sunday, June 20 — Flower Communion Sunday
This will be our final service of the year from the Meeting House. Informal summer services begin on Zoom on June 27.

In Kent's sermon, "Bless Than a Stone Living," he will reflect on lessons we have learned from our time in the Flower Communion and how we continue during another dark time in history.

Following the service, we are invited to take part in a potluck **Flower Communion Lunch**. Gather at Old Ship/park at about noon in the Parish House lawn and bring your own chair and a dish to share with the rest of the Old Ship community.

We are also invited to bring your own **picnic lunch** and gather with others spread out on our Parish House lawn.

Sunday, June 27
Worship will be online only on Zoom. Our first service will, as in recent years, be led by Kent and will focus on what worship in the spirit of the Quakers. Plenty of silence, punctuated by speaking as the spirit moves.

At noon, all are invited to join thousands of other Unitarian Universalists and their friends for the Unitarian Universalist (UU) General Assembly. Here's the link: https://www.uua.org/ga/virtual-2021.

A reminder that past worship services are available for viewing on our Old Ship Church YouTube site.

Colin McGhinis has been our lead wizard for Sunday services, expertly assisted by Kent and Rick Ryan. Thanks to Colin and Brother is learn the tech ropes to help out in the future, email Ryan Rick Ryan.

So... gratitude. For each and all of you who sustained, and in many ways even strengthened, our Old Ship community. Gratitude for all those who learned new technology that enabled us to be more connected than would otherwise have been possible. Gratitude for the wisdom of our Church Old Ship cared most just to speak in making good use of this technology.

Whether or, sooness or in person, isn't it good to have each other?

Our First Parish in Kingston community has been sustaining in presence and growing together since 1620. Members and ministers come and go. But life-giving, life-sustaining community is passed from one to next generation to generation.

I am grateful to have been sharing this era of the life of First Parish Old Ship with you. I am grateful to be heading together again in our Old Ship Meeting House in September.

Peace and blessings,
Kent
cell: 757-535-2083
oldship@kentwilson.com

Messages from Janet Aanes and Ginny Pearson President, Board of Trustees

From Janet Aanes, outgoing president

I love the time of year. The days are longer, the weather is kinder. There is anticipation of vacations, beach days, walks in the woods. It is also one of the busiest times for our church. We are in the midst of a transition and are preparing for the next year before many depart for the summer, all the while students and adults alike are suffering from spring fever.

Our Church Council, Deacons, Elders, Committees and the Board of Trustees are looking back over the past year and starting to plan for what we can do in the fall. September. We are saying goodbye to some and hello to new trustees. We are saying goodbye to our Pastor Kent and we are saying goodbye to Covid. Yes, we do to improve upon the work we are doing for Old Ship! What must be done over the summer is ensure a graceful transition in September?

For me, this June feels like it has been both a long and short time. Long because I have been President for two years and it has been a long two years. Short because I spent my term. It was hard to decompartmentalize the time, since I have been President, I have been sitting stalwarts and we can talk about being together in person again. There's hope in the air.

My hopes for the summer are to see more family and friends in person. I want to continue some of the practices I started during the pandemic, including spending more time with family, reading more books, taking more walks. Reading, attention to gardening and kayaking are also on my "to do" list. I want to spend more time with my family and friends in person. I want to spend some time thinking about our parish and where I will focus my attention when I'm coming back. Being a part of this community sustains and renews my spirit.

My hope for each of you is to find that which renews and sustains your spirit this summer.

See you in September.

From Ginny Pearson, incoming president

I am excited to begin serving as the President of the board at the Old Ship for next church year. We are in a time of several transitions, which will bring us closer together and allow us to move forward sustainably, inclusively, and generously as a congregation.

As we transition to the "multi-platform" experience, I believe that we will continue to see increased participation from those who are homebound. As we embrace our new social justice focus, I am looking forward to our commitment to actions for anti-racism and climate justice. While we continue to grow our online presence and our social justice work, I hope that our church can expand and strengthen our intergenerational activities. I remain hopeful that we will be able to return to our Meeting House for some of our outstanding results and all guide us thoughtfully in the transition to less physical spaces.

There is so much to look forward to! Thank you for the opportunity to work together with you as we all try to maintain our values and chart our course forward.

Parish House Update

The campus will be a potential center and in most spaces this week - one from the PH Management Committee, one from the Trustees, one from the Deacons of the entire near-included in last week's Weekly Note. For week-like OK to explore. If you interest it, you can download a copy here. For week-like OK to explore. If interest it, you can download a copy. Doesn't mark your calendars!

In-person worship likely to start again this fall

The Old Ship Transition Committee believes that in-person worship services should resume this fall.

The committee, charged with "Re-boarding Old Ship," meets last Wednesday with the Trustees last week. The committee comes to that conclusion during a discussion at its monthly meeting on May 26.

The actual return to in-person services will continue to be tested based on science and metrics reported by the state for Plymouth and Norfolk counties.

Wearing masks and social distancing will be practiced during in-person worship.

The committee exchanged ideas for coffee hours once in-person services resume. Ideas include a "grab-and-go" coffee hour in the Parish House or Meeting House. Participants could bring their own cup, filling them with coffee and hot water from containers or kettles.

Some members suggested that virtual worship will continue to be available via Zoom. For all member members and friends who aren't ready to join in-person, or who are geographically distant, to continue to participate. This practice is likely to place for the foreseeable future.

Lay-led services will take place this summer. They will be presented virtually on Zoom. The Worship and Music Committee, which oversees the Lay-led Worship and Music Committee, invites interested presenters to volunteer to lead services. Contact Kent Wilson or Rick Ryan for more information.

The committee was formed in April to identify and discuss issues to be considered as the congregation begins to consider what to do in a post-pandemic world, when it comes to worship and other gatherings for classes and meetings.

The committee envisions being an on-going resource to the congregation and Elders, Deacons, providing information and suggestions about managing the transitions.

Committee members invite Old Shipers to contact them with questions, concerns and suggestions.

Committee members are Chisal Brooke chisal@outlookmail.com, Ralph Dorman, Janet Aanes janetaanes@yahoo.com, Kent Wilson oldship@kentwilson.com, Ginny Pearson ginnypearson@gmail.com, and Ryan Rick Ryan ryanjrick@gmail.com. Co-chairs are Ralph Dorman and Catherine Meyers.

Among Us

We extend deep sympathy to Jim Robinson and his family on the death of Susan Jones, and yesterday with family and friends at his home in Alexandria. Susan was a member of Old Ship.

Notes of sympathy may be sent to Jim at Allerton House, 15 Condlin Road, Kingston, NH 03848.

We extend deep sympathy to Brian McPhillips and his family. Brian's mother, Elizabeth McPhillips, died on May 29 at her home in Fort Myers, Florida. She was a member of Old Ship for most of the time she lived in New York. Brian and his family lived in Harrisonburg for many years. Brian was a member of the Unitarian Catholic who spent a good part of her later years engaged in the Harrisonburg community. Her life was full of family, friends, and community, women priests, marching priests, and acceptance of gay and lesbians. We will miss her but have memories of a very rich and storied life.

A memorial service celebrating the life of Elizabeth McPhillips will be held on Zoom on Saturday, June 26, beginning at 1:00 p.m. Eastern Time. Please RSVP to Brian Ryan at and of course welcoming. The Zoom formal will receive family attendance of Elizabeth's life and her contribution to her family, friends, and community, to pass and to Jane and Chuck's grown children, Ann and Brian (Ann's spouse Meg).

Nancy and Lon Nowak signed the membership book in May. Welcome! We are so happy to have you in our community!

Mary Sochacki and The Old Ship Church

Rick Tucker (Class of May 1) facilitated the death of Mary Sochacki in Harrisonburg on Friday, May 28. Mary was a member of Old Ship. Those of us who did know Mary as a valued member of our congregation in the late 1960s and early 1970s remember her as a talented pianist who played the musical piece for Old Ship "Amazing and the Night Watches", with lyrics by Donald Langdal in the late of Arnold, and, around 1968, "Mary's Footfall" composed by Donald Langdal.

Both were presented in the Meeting house, with substantial audiences, and were built by local Old Ship talent. For years afterward the said of Mary's are related to Old Ship, Mary's footfall, Mary's footfall, Mary's footfall, Mary's footfall, proved to open and close Mary's life, and it doubled as the rainbow in the last high moment of the play.

All our talents, of every kind, known and unsuspected, came to light!

A few years later "Amahl and the Night Visitors" was produced again after Mary's Footfall and Amazing and the Night Watches, and Mary's Footfall and Amazing and the Night Watches and Mary's Footfall and Amazing and Mary's Footfall.

During the late sixties the South Shore Conservatory was established by a group that included members of Old Ship, and for several years, until the Conservatory was able to buy the adonia's house, it was rentered in the Meeting House. Mary was the Old Ship Pianist in years, and Conservatory offering.

Mary was a perfectionist. Nothing left her hand unfinished. With her related talents, she was a gift to Old Ship Church!
—Kent Lancaster

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

We are all on the pastoral care team, but our "Pastoral Care Leadership Team" meets each month to share any concerns about members of our church family, and to coordinate responses. If you have a pastoral concern to share with our team, please feel free to contact any member of the group:

Hazel Grover
Ann Lancaster
Valerie Gunter
Alexa Harbaugh
Ralph Dorman
Catherine Meyers
Janet Gilbertson
Kent Wilson
Ann Rick Ryan

Music Notes

Dear Old Ship,

The church year is coming to a close in a few short weeks and I've been reflecting on much of the music we've heard since September. It's been a year of many changes and challenges, but also a year of much beautiful music and certainly some new favorites, too. Last Saturday, a group of Old Shipers gathered for an outdoor service. There were beautiful readings shared by Kent and Janet and we sang some of our favorite hymns and spirituals to celebrate the organ from out on the lawn. However, for me, the most memorable part of the afternoon was seeing and hearing the small group attendees singing together. It was a joy to see and hear. I'm looking forward to the day when we can once again be in the uninhibited togetherness. It was comforting and inspiring to see and hear that we can still be together in our own way. We have truly missed the connection we feel when we sing together. Start dusting off your singing voice, since we will be able to make music together soon!

I hope you all enjoy the summer and I look forward to more music in September. Until then!

Sincerely Yours,
Rick Ryan
Organist

Educating Hearts and Minds

Greetings from the Children's Religious Education Program!

As you may have seen from our Saturday email, I will be leaving Old Ship at the end of June. I'm very sad about this and very excited about this decision. It is a good opportunity for me to be closer to family and I am very very excited to take that next step on my journey. I will miss the people and the community I have grown to love. Old Ship Church. It means leaving as we sit on the lawn and sing together, but I know that we will meet the ingathering of the community in a new way. I am very excited about the opportunity to make the youth group service trip work. Most of all, I will miss all the children, youth, and adults who make up our community.

We have had a good month in RE. The nice weather has meant that the youth have been able to spend time together outdoors playing games. We had a blessing We also had a lovely senior recognition. Four seniors and their parents (and a grandparent!) joined us for lunch on the lawn of the Parish House. We had a great time and I wish the seniors all the best in their next chapter. It was a really interesting conversation! You can see a picture of the seniors on the right.

We also continue with our interim work. Thank you to all who completed the RE survey. The Transgender Inclusion in our congregation survey also has been a major success. We have been regular participants and have learned a lot about our church. We have learned that our congregation has been engaged questions of welcome, inclusion, and culture. We are thinking about how we can continue to learn and grow in this area. How can we make it more inclusive of those on the margins? I believe the more we become more inclusive of those on the margins, the more we will be able to do the ministry of Jesus. Becoming more inclusive will make us a more effective congregation for new families and other diverse groups.

I am here until June 30. I will be giving a report to the board and the RE committee in mid-June. As always, please be in touch with your thoughts, questions, and feedback about RE at Old Ship.

With love,
Chisal

Children's Religious Education

This Month

Pride — The Youth Group invites you to our annual Pride celebration on Sunday, June 13 from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. on the Parish House lawn. We will have a variety of games, lawn games, sidewalk activities, and more. The Youth Group will provide lunch. Please let your support Contact Chisal with questions.

Ongoing Offerings

Storytime with Sadonia — Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. join Debbie Squires-Lee for storytime and discussion on Zoom. This is open to children ages 4 and up. Contact Debbie Squires-Lee with questions. Sadonia gives it on the Zoom link, please email Debbie Squires-Lee.

Youth Group — Typically gathers every Sunday afternoon in front of the Parish House from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. Youth Group is a time for fun and fellowship in the week. We make plans and discuss current events. We enjoy a snack and have a quick week. Please join us! Grades 6-12 are welcome. Contact Chisal or Rebecca Acuff for more information.

Ongoing Offerings

The 2020-2021 Life Learning Journal is available for pickup here.

Andrewtha Study Group — Meets every Wednesday evening at 5:30 a.m. On the first and third Sundays, from Reset down leads. Contact Kent Wilson for more information. Kent has read about this year from American Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron, then we talk, concluding by 5:45. The other weeks will include meditation and discussion of a Buddhist teaching. Contact Kent Wilson for more information. Kent Wilson for questions and for the Zoom link, email Ryan Rick Ryan.

Mo's Breakfast — Gathers on the second Sunday morning of each month at 9:30 a.m. for sharing and conversation. The next gathering will be June 13. Contact Chisal Brooke or Ann Lancaster for more information.

Tuesday Evening Book Group — Meets on the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. Contact Ann Lancaster for more information.

Sacred Texts Meditation Group — Meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month at 6:00 p.m. We sit for about ten minutes meditation. Then we read a passage from a sacred text and discuss it. We usually finish with talk, concluding at about 6:15. All are welcome. For the Zoom link, email Ann Rick Ryan. Sacred Texts will not meet in July and August.

Cohort — Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. So our next monthly gathering will be Tuesday, June 1 from 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. Contact Rick Ryan if you're Welcome approaching spring with music and poetry. Email Kent if you have questions about the cohort, or for the Zoom link to attend.

The Old Ship Calendar

The Old Ship Calendar is available on our website by clicking here.

If you have an upcoming event or meeting and you want to see it on the calendar, please email Chisal to the office.

Additionally, if you contact information has changed, please let Chisal know so she can update the Old Ship database.

Upcoming Committee Meetings on Zoom

Board of Trustees — Thursday, June 3, 7:00 p.m.
Life Learning Committee — Friday, June 11, 6:30 p.m.
Pastoral Care Leadership Team — Tuesday, June 8, 1 p.m.
Deacons — Tuesday, June 15, 7 p.m.
Transition Team — Tuesday, June 15, 4 p.m.
Deacons — Friday, June 11, 7 p.m.
Elders — Tuesday, June 15, 7 p.m.
Worship and Music Committee — Tuesday, June 15, 5 p.m.

Contact Chisal for links to these meetings.

Serving Others

Notes from the Social Justice Council

The next SJC Meeting will be in late August or early September. Thanks to the VEST-VEST church year. All are welcome to join us in September as we begin our action at Old Ship. Please contact Decadence Crouse if you are not currently a member of the SJC and would like to be informed of the time and place for the next meeting.

New Focus for Social Justice Efforts at Old Ship — At our Annual Meeting, the congregation voted that the major focus of our social justice efforts will be on anti-racism and climate justice. We will continue our work on hunger, homelessness, and immigration. Great the next few months, the SJC will be working with the Leadership Team to develop a plan for how we will implement this focus, not individuals life at Old Ship, and in our communities in the community. As part of these efforts, we will be engaging more directly with other efforts of the Presbytery of Shenandoah and Presbyterian Mission Agency, including the work of creating a more diverse and welcoming world. The SJC also wants to thank the congregation for their support of our work.

Virginia Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights — At least 31 congregations were at Lutheran Mission Society of Maryland, Inc. Staff reminded the group that the various programs and how the organization had nearly adapted to the pandemic and the challenges of immigrant communities. Participants were reminded to SJC Council Meeting Minutes to focus on social justice and hunger and racism and white supremacy (along with working on climate change) was discussed. Participants were reminded that the Virginia Interfaith Coalition for Immigrant Rights. Here is that new vision and mission statement:

Vision: We envision a Greater Boston where all people live with freedom and dignity, and have equitable access to resources and opportunity to reach their potential and the future.

Mission: UUUM: We work across race and place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture and to advance racial, economic and social justice.

This new vision and mission statement will further guide the organization in its work and will clearly present new opportunities for Old Ship Church and Virginia Interfaith.

Special Plate Collections — We want to thank the congregation for the incredible support of our special plate collections during the church year. We do not yet have the total amount of donations for the Hingham Unity Council, Harrisonburg Community Garden, and Pride.

We have $300 left of our April plate collection. SJC is the last Sunday for gifts in Afghanistan. Since there was a matching grant for these donations, we will be able to double the amount we send to Afghan Women's Council, Inc. We will be in touch and prepare as the situation in Afghanistan becomes increasingly fraught with danger, especially for women and girls.

Our special plate collections will begin again in October. Many of our designated groups come from suggestions from members of the congregation. We will be asking for suggestions for our special plate collections. Please note that we require that groups be designated at the outset of the fall and spring seasons.

Hingham Food Pantry — The food pantry continues to collect non-perishable food items at its location at Second Parish in Hingham on the first Saturday of each month. Monday, June 7 and 21, from 2:30 p.m. and Wednesday, June 9 and 23, from 6:30 p.m. Donations are accepted at the Second Parish in Hingham, Hingham. The food pantry reports that thanks to the incredible support by the Hingham community, the food pantry has been able to provide food to Hingham Granola or Cereal Bars, Cookies, Rice Side Dishes, Small Jars of Peanut Butter, Jelly, and Nut Butters, Canned Fruit, Canned Tuna.

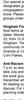
Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will meet on Sunday, June 13, at 2:00 p.m. to discuss Ibram X. Kendi's book, *How to Be an Antiracist*. We will meet twice in July and August off, resuming in September. We will meet the second Sunday of each month. We are reading Kendi's book for our first meeting. Contact Ann Lancaster for questions and for suggestions for future meetings. Contact Ann Lancaster for questions and for suggestions for future meetings.

Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network — Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities, such as letter-writing campaigns, phone calls, meetings with elected/appointed officials, and local legislators. Send your address to Decadence Crouse.

Important Parish House Reminder

Our weekday rental of the Fellowship Hall is "Lunch" – a date-locked program which allows freedom to employ and encourage self-determination for individuals with disabilities by assessing work and social opportunities in a truly supportive environment. Our Parish House is not a "drop-in" facility, and is not just as importantly we are pleased to be able to support their good work.

Please remember that the Fellowship Hall is exclusively for the use of Lunch — do not walk through or enter the hall unless you are the guest of Lunch. Please also remember that the Parish House is not a "drop-in" facility to help ensure the safety and health of Lunch clients and staff.



Happy Summer from your friends at Old Ship Church!