



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

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office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

### March 2016 Newsletter

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

### March Worship Services

#### Sunday, March 6

At Merrie Market this year there was an "auction" for a sermon topic. Dana Kintigh was the high bidder, and this will be the Sunday that Ken preaches from Dana's suggested topic and their conversation about the topic.

The title of Ken's sermon, "Why Should it Be Thus?", is taken from an old spiritual which asks the even older question why the good should suffer and the evil seem to prosper. Though it can sound like an abstract theological question, each of us knows how personal the question sometimes can be.

#### Sunday, March 13 - UU Union Service at First Parish Cohasset

**10:00 (and remember to set your clocks forward!)**

#### ***No worship or RE at Old Ship***

This year's "UU Union Service" will be held at First Parish in Cohasset (right on Cohasset Common). The theme for this service for all ages is "Hope" which will be expressed through stories, music, dance, and art shared among our First Parishes in Hingham, Cohasset, Norwell, and Scituate, and Second Parish in Hingham. Ken Read-Brown will offer a brief reflection during the service: "Living Our Hope".

In addition to street parking there are two parking lots, one next to Town Hall a block behind and to the right of the church. The other is behind the first block of village stores on the west side of Main Street. The Parish Hall sustained significant water damage after a pipe burst so our coffee hour will be held at South Shore Community Center, three houses down from our Parish Hall at 3 North Main Street. If you would like to bring an item to coffee hour you can let Jill Cowie know at [revjillcowie@gmail.com](mailto:revjillcowie@gmail.com).

The service is multigenerational, but there will be nursery care for the very young in the Cohasset Parish House across the street from the church.

There is a simple dance for children to participate in during the service. It will be taught once to children interested on Wednesday March 9, at 4:30 in the Meeting House (church) on Cohasset Common. Children will run through it again briefly before the service on March 13. If your child would like to participate, please have them bring a child's umbrella to the rehearsal if they own one. Not all dancers will need one, so if you do not own one, that is fine too!

#### Sunday, March 20

The vernal equinox will arrive at 12:30 a.m. this Sunday, Palm Sunday on the Christian calendar. This means that by the time we gather for worship, spring will have sprung. Palm Sunday/Easter as well as Passover (celebrated later in April this year) have their roots in

more ancient spring festivals; and some ancient cultures mark the beginning of the year as the beginning of spring. And though we are one humanity on one earth circling one among the billions of stars in our Milky Way galaxy, on this one earth we argue and fight about matters both trivial and great. Are there deeper religious/spiritual/scientific understandings that can help us behave a little more like the one humanity on one earth (not to mention one nation!) that we are?

Ken's sermon: "Meeting in Jerusalem"

### **Sunday, March 27 Easter**

Ken's sermon title, "A Terrible Beauty," is taken from W.B. Yeats' poem "Easter 1916." Though the poem is in good measure commentary on the 1916 Irish "Easter Rising," there are more universal messages as well - for Easter and for our lives anytime. Music for our Easter service this year will include portions of John Rutter's Requiem. (Yeats is the poet for our spring poetry class which begins on Wednesday, April 6 - details elsewhere in the newsletter.)

### **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 Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month, offering time for meditation and then conversation concerning a Buddhist book the group is reading. "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation (and bagels and coffee too). And the Knitting Group meets at 8:30 on the final Sunday of each month.*

*Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend any early morning gathering or committee meeting and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.*

### **from the minister's desk Musings**

It seems to be time for my quadrennial reminder that religious liberalism and political liberalism are not the same thing. Time to remember that to affirm that Unitarian Universalists gather as liberal religious communities is to affirm that we believe not necessarily in political liberalism, but most assuredly in individual freedom to pursue truth and meaning each in our own way, and that we commit to offering one another spiritual support as we seek together to help create a more just and peaceful world.

To put it more simply, it is to affirm that we are a religious tradition of the free open mind and generous open heart.

None of which implies that Unitarian Universalists are all liberal politically, much less all members of the Democratic Party. Free open minds and generous open hearts can lead us in many directions, politically liberal as well as politically conservative, as we covenant to walk together with one spirit of love and care and concern.

All this said, it is no big secret that a majority of UUs likely do consider themselves politically as well as religiously liberal. This means that it is more important than ever in a

contentious political year such as the one in which we are now living to avoid assuming that everyone in the room is liberal or Democrat or supports a particular candidate. I encourage us to remember this as we quite understandably and naturally engage in political conversations during coffee hour or at other social events; please remember this too if you are thinking of lighting a candle on Sunday morning reflecting your political views.

In this spirit, then, with free open minds and generous open hearts may we continue with utmost respect to listen to and learn from one another's varied opinions and views.

\* \* \*

As our calendar of festivals both secular and religious continues to turn, we celebrate Easter later this month. May this celebration of new life, this celebration of joy in the morning after a dark night of the soul... reflect new life and love in your hearts and your lives, even in the midst of whatever trial and sorrow there may be for some of you this season.

As always, please know that my door is always open for conversation on whatever may be on your mind or in your heart.

Peace and blessings,  
Ken oldshipkrb@gmail.com

### Religious Education Notes



UniCON at Old Ship - (this is the flier)  
(this is a UniCON )

Hosted by Old Ship Youth Group

When: Saturday March 12th 9 a.m. - Sunday 13th 9 a.m.

Where: Old Ship Church/First Parish Hingham - Parish House  
107 Main Street - Hingham, Mass. 02043

Cost: \$15

REGISTRATION DUE MARCH 5TH

FOR GRADES 9-12 - MAXIMUM OF 50 - REGISTER A.S.A.P.

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education  
beverlytmail@gmail.com

## **Message from the Music Director**

Here Comes Peter Cottontail...

Spring is definitely in the air. Perhaps by time this newsletter is received, crocuses will have begun to appear. It is also time to look ahead at Spring musical events.

Palm Sunday and Easter are the two most important events in the Christian calendar. While they are not celebrated here with nearly as much energy, I will use any excuse possible to plan some of the more important selections from the choral repertoire. Plan on hearing two selections from the Rutter Requiem this Easter season. On March 20, we will sing "Out of the Deep" and the following Sunday, Easter Sunday, we will sing the "Sanctus." Of all the requiems ever written, this may be the most beautiful. It is easy to find on YouTube, but I recommend the Cambridge Singers recordings, directed by John Rutter, himself: [https://youtu.be/HP7oYnXfyh0?list=PLMUnB4vc6zhWN\\_q7TidWNIABZaZzOnj9s](https://youtu.be/HP7oYnXfyh0?list=PLMUnB4vc6zhWN_q7TidWNIABZaZzOnj9s)

Also expect to hear more from my Black Composers Matter series. I will present a suite of Spirituals composed by living composer, David Hurd and also the entire Nigerian Suite no. 1 by living African composer Godwin Sadoh.

And don't forget that Music Sunday is coming on May 8 when we will sing the Rutter Requiem in its entirety. Rehearsals will begin the first week in April.

See you in the balcony!  
Berni Nadeau, Music Director  
[musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org)

## **Membership**

Notes from your Membership Coordinator

The first day of Spring is on the 20th of this month and that means we can expect to see some changes very soon: flowers will bloom, grass will grow and bugs will buzz. Though this happens once a year it always feels like it's the first time.

March 12th is another Community Dinner and if you haven't attended one before now is the perfect time to make that a first! Dine pot luck style at an Old Shipper's house and enjoy good food and good conversation--all while getting to know one another better. If you'd like to attend please email me at [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org).

As always, look for new faces during coffee hour and introduce yourself. We have people who are making that a first, and saying hello is a wonderful way to make them feel welcome.

Kindly,  
Erin Alix  
membership@oldshipchurch.org

### **From the Board of Trustees**

I didn't know when I agreed to be president of the Board that we would be facing the momentous decision of what to do with our Parish House property... and what an exciting challenge that has been so far! It's shown me just how strong we are as a congregation, that we can all pull together to move through this process in a respectful and open-minded way, using all the talents that we have right here in our community. I'm sure that our ultimate decision will be a good one.

This issue does at times overshadow the many other truly important things that we all are working on, from creating a nurturing and welcoming community, to the many social justice initiatives we focus on, to our rejuvenated choir, to the outstanding lifelong learning programs we offer to Old Shippers of all ages, and to the many acts of kindness and support that happen everyday in a more quiet fashion. Thank you all for giving your hearts and hands to this wonderful work. It is what makes us Old Ship!

Our Board, as liaisons to each ministry, has helped keep us focused on the goals we set for this year: to develop lay leadership, practice radical hospitality, and better steward our resources. There are two new initiatives that we would like help with. We committed to holding a community-wide forum on Racial Justice, to better understand the issues raised by Black Lives Matter. And, we want to start a Speaker Series where we continue the Old Ship tradition of gathering in the Meeting House to discuss issues of the day.

Nina Price, president

### **Educating Hearts and Minds Life Learning Programs**

*For a complete listing of this year's classes and ongoing programs, go to the "learning" page on our web site: [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)*

#### **A Chosen Faith - five sessions, 7:30- 8:30, Wed., March 2 - 30** led by Ken Read-Brown and Diane Elliott

We will explore in depth some of the roots and branches of Unitarian Universalism using as our primary resource the book, *A Chosen Faith*, by UU ministers John Buehrens and Forrest Church. For any of us - newcomers or old-timers - who wish to deepen our understanding of Unitarian Universalism. For more information and to sign up contact Ken ([oldshipkreb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkreb@gmail.com)) or Diane ([dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com)).

The book *A Chosen Faith* is available in our Parish House office. There is a stack of books to the left as you enter the office, and an envelope for your check (to Old Ship Church) or cash.

#### **Sema: A Ceremony of the Whirling Dervishes**

Parish House Fellowship Hall, Thursday, March 10, 7:00

We are most fortunate to be able to present this program of music and dance, free and open to Old Ship members and friends and the wider public.

The Mevlevi sema is named for Mevlana Jelaluddin Rumi (1207-1273) who was one of



the greatest Muslim saints and mystics, often hailed by Western scholars as the greatest mystical poet of all time. Sema is the turning ceremony wherein semazens (dervishes) turn to traditional Turkish music in four different sections or salutes (selam).

The evening's program will feature two dancers and an orchestra of traditional Turkish instruments.

(Many thanks to Old Ship newcomer Emel Ergul for arranging for this very special program!)



five sessions, Wed., April 6 - May 4, 1:00 and 7:00  
led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown

Our annual spring poetry, to be held during National Poetry month, will be exploring the work of Nobel Prize-winning Irish poet William Butler Yeats - whose 150th birthday was celebrated last year.

For more info and to sign up, contact Elizabeth ([elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)) or Ken ([oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com)).

### **Grants Available for Projects Addressing Homelessness and/or Nutritional Security**

Old Ship Church's Saniter Trust is once again offering small grants to nonprofit organizations for projects that support social and ecological justice, by specifically addressing issues relating to homelessness and/or nutritional security. 2015 grants supported the Homeless Empowerment Project in Cambridge, UU Mass Action in Greenbush and Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore in Weymouth. The 2016 social outreach grant information and application are available at the Old Ship Church web site under the tab "serving/serving others" at [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org).

For more information contact Diane Morrison at: [dianemorrison58@gmail.com](mailto:dianemorrison58@gmail.com)

The deadline for the return of completed applications is Friday, March 18, 2016. Grants are expected to be awarded in June, 2016. Applicant organizations must be 501(c)(3) non-profit organizations.

**Warrant for Special All Parish Meeting on March 6, 2016 at noon. [Click here.](#)**

### **Social Justice Committee**

#### **Cupcakes are back!**

Sunday, March 6 is the date for "Cupcakes for a Cause." Once again, all funds will be donated to School on Wheels. This organization provides tutors, mentors, and school supplies for young students who are homeless. Please plan if you can to donate a dozen cupcakes-plain or fancy, and/or purchase and enjoy the baked goods.

#### **Hingham Food Pantry**

Thanks to all who continue to donate to the Hingham Food Pantry. The next coffee hour food collection will be Sunday, March 20. That Sunday there will also be an option of donating cash in case you forget to bring food donations.

#### **Old Ship Ad Hoc Committee for Refugees update**

The ad hoc Committee for Refugees is collaborating with the First Parish congregation in Norwell to benefit refugees in Syria, the Middle East and other countries. The Greater Boston Refugee Ministry and Ascentria Care Alliance are the two organizations working with us. The need is great! On March 13th, collection boxes will be placed near the office. New or gently used, clean clothing for all ages and sizes are needed, including such items as jackets, slacks and sweaters. Blankets, bed linens, and towels are also needed. Volunteers are needed in Boston for tutoring, support, life skills and child

support. Call the International Rescue Committee at 617-482-1154, or the International Institute of Boston at 617-695-9990. Volunteers, known as Ambassadors, are needed for the Greater Boston Refugee Ministry for a large variety of tasks. For more information, go to their website. Orientation and training are offered in all organizations

### **Empty Bowls Fundraiser**

Old Ship joins the list of local sponsors for this annual event:

One of the greatest feelings in the world is knowing that we as individuals can make a difference.

"Ending hunger in America is a goal that is literally within our grasp." - Jeff Bridges

Join us for:

#### **EMPTY BOWLS SOUTH SHORE 2016**

and help fight hunger one bowl at a time!

Thursday, March 31, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

EMPTY BOWLS Fundraiser

"a grassroots movement to end hunger"

The Hingham Public Library, 66 Leavitt Street, Hingham

Tickets: Adults- \$20 pp | Students & Children - \$10 each

Available on the night of the event at the library's main entrance.

Tickets are limited and offered on a first come, first served basis.

If you are willing to loan a crockpot, please put your name on the bottom and bring to the Parish House any day time before noon on Sun 3/27. Leave your labeled pot on the labelled cart in the Parish House kitchen. Old Shipper Michelle Green pick up the pots on 3/27 and return them to the cart in the kitchen by Sun 4/3. You may also take your pot to her house, 202 High Street Hingham, where the door on the left side of the barn at the rear of her property will be unlocked and pots can be left inside. Please label your pot and let her know where to return it to you.

The Empty Bowls Project, the brainchild of artists John Hartom and Lisa Blackburn, uses ceramic arts to fight hunger. The Imagine/RENDER Group, a 501(c)3 organization, was created to promote the project. The objective is to raise money for hunger, increase awareness of hunger and related issues and advocate for arts education by nurturing the creative process that offers the possibility of new solutions to old problems. At each event potters and other artisans donate handcrafted bowls.

The ticket price includes a light meal of soup and bread (generously donated by Whole Foods Market, Hingham) and a handcrafted bowl. Guests select one bowl which is theirs to keep as a reminder that hunger is an ongoing issue.

### **Nurturing Committee**

**The duties for signing up for Fellowship Hour are changing a bit.** As Host, you will be asked to pour coffee and tea, keep the cream and sugar bowls full and do the dishes. That's it. What about food?

**Well, that's where we're asking everyone to adapt.** Instead of asking one or two families to provide snacks for 100, we're asking about 30 to provide one snack for a few.

**Each week we are asking families with last names within a certain range to bring an item for coffee hour.** It can be cookies, brownies, fruit, cheese and crackers, hummus, vegies , bagels or anything else. The adage "many hands make light work" can be interpreted here to be " many hands feed many people for little work". Each week we will post on Facebook, the sign up genius, the order of service and on the website which names are assigned for the upcoming



week. The exception will be on Food Pantry Collection Days. On those days we will only be serving beverages. Fellowship Hour Hosts are still needed for pouring and clean up. Here is the sign up list for the next 2 months.

Date	Last Names Beginning With	Special Coffee Hour
February 28	A-H	Pledge Campaign Kick Off
March 6th	Not needed	Cupcakes for a Cause, SJJ fundraiser
March 13	I-P	
March 20	Not needed: coffee served only	Food Pantry Day
March 27	Q-Z	
April 3	Not needed	Living by Heart Committee
April 10	A-H	
April 17	I-P	
April 24	Not needed: coffee served only	Food Pantry Day

Signups to Host Fellowship Hour will still be done online at [click here](#) or by stopping by the Welcome Table during Fellowship Hour. We hope that this new system alleviates some of the difficulties we have heard from you surrounding hosting.

**Save the Date! The next Community Dinners evening is Saturday, March 12th.**

What is a community dinner, you ask? It's an informal and fun pot-luck dinner gathering of Old Shippers - newcomers and old timers alike - in homes around the area with no agenda other than to share a meal and have some fun getting to know one another better. If you would like to host or attend a gathering, please see Janice McPhillips or Ivy Butterworth this Sunday at coffee hour. The Nurturing Community Council will coordinate with hosts and all guests will receive a phone call or email with information about the dinner. If you have questions, you can email Janice at [jbbmcphillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcphillips@gmail.com).

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