



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

April 2018 Newsletter

May newsletter deadline:

Monday, April 23

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

Worship

Sunday, April 1, 10:25am - Easter

Ken's Easter sermon will be "Yes to Life." Our Music Director Chris Hossfeld is composing a new piece for the choir to be performed on Easter.

Easter information for the youngest Old Shippers:

The Old Ship Easter Egg Scavenger Hunt is a very slow hunt. Families will all first come to the worship service and then the children will leave after the Time for All Ages to begin the hunt. This is not a competitive race to be won by the fastest legs. Instead, the hunt is by age group and involves finding written clues, using compasses and eggs cooperatively. All of the candy is pooled and shared among the entire group at the end. The smallest children will have their own special area to find eggs. Warm jackets, sturdy shoes and patience are encouraged.

We are still in need of hosts for Fellowship Hour and the Welcome Table.

Sunday, April 8, 10:25am

The theme for this service for all ages will be "When I look in the mirror I see you" (words from a song by Judy Small and Pat Humphries) with particular focus on the stories of immigrants. Our monthly outreach offering will be to benefit PAIR, the Political Asylum/Immigration Representation Project, which provides free legal services to asylum-seekers and promotes the rights of detained immigrants.

At noon there will be a forum in the Parish House parlor to learn more about PAIR from staff attorney Seth Purcell.

Sunday, April 15, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "Fifty Years Ago." Ken writes: "As those of us of certain ages remember quite clearly, 1968 was filled with tragedy and despair as well as hope and promise. Are there lessons for us today as we reflect on the tumult of those yesterdays? And with the Boston Marathon on April 16, might the metaphor of life as not a sprint but a marathon be of use?"

Sunday, April 22, 10:25am

David Egan, our student intern minister, will be preaching a sermon entitled: "One Planet, Two Worlds." On this Earth Day, David will explore how climate change is affecting different socio-economic classes differently, and what our responsibility is as people of faith to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Sunday, April 29, 10:25am

Ken's sermon for our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's "Justice Sunday" will be "One Day at a Time... Especially in These Times." Ken writes: "My intention in this sermon will be to offer a sort of coda to Earth Day in this time of critical climate change threats that might also be of use as we navigate our lives at any time."

During Fellowship Hour, our Social Justice Council and our Green Sanctuary 350MA group will be offering ways for us all to be active on issues of climate justice.

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.

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.

Musing

from the minister's desk

(this month from my "Earth and Spirit" column in the Hingham Journal)

How many times since the spring equinox have we heard (or said ourselves) the plaintive words: When will spring come?

But the reality is that spring has indeed arrived: New England spring!

Yet each year we are somehow surprised at the nature of New England spring - dreaming of warm breezes and blooming flowers long before they become inevitable. Why do we do this to ourselves? Is it just that hope springs (pardon the pun) eternal, as the saying goes? Maybe. But do we not remember the April Fool's Day storm that dumped over 20 inches of snow on us? Or the May 9, 1977 snow? That one is engraved in my mind and maybe yours too. It truly was one for the record books - indeed, it only took about seven seconds for me to find this on the web: "At Boston it was the first May snow in 107 years of records. The heavy wet snow caused extensive damage to trees and power lines. The homes of half a million people were without power following the storm."

So as April approaches our hearts may be yearning for springtime as we imagine it, but our heads ought to remember and know that in New England spring means that, well, anything could still happen. (And in this era of climate change more likely to happen than ever.)

So indeed spring has actually arrived already, in its New England way. We just need to know where to look: for the snowdrops, for the first shoots of everything from crocuses to skunk cabbage, for thickening buds on maple and oak, not to mention longer hours of sunshine each day as we journey from equinox to solstice. So, yes, we just have to pay closer attention to the signs of early New England spring; then before we know it, some bright morning we will awaken to those heretofore only imagined warm breezes and blooming flowers.

Seems to me there is a lesson for our lives here too, but I'll leave that to your pondering.

Meanwhile I wish you all many blessings this Easter-tide as spring slowly - but, yes, surely - blossoms.

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

Stewardship reminder: *As you read the rest of this month's newsletter, please pay special attention to the Annual Pledge Campaign stewardship reminder. As that article notes, we are only about halfway to our goal. But to continue to fully support our Old Ship programs and ministries, we need pledges as generous as possible from all members and friends. And remembering that many who are on fixed or unstable incomes may not be able to make a large pledge, if you are among those who can do a little (or a lot) more, you are invited to do so. So please join me in making as significant a pledge as you can - if possible between 2% and 4% or more of your income, but in any case whatever you can. Thanks to everyone for sharing what you can so that Old Ship can continue to serve life through our five ministries. --Ken*

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. --Ken

Notes from your Membership Coordinator

Despite all the snow we still had on the ground last month, Spring is officially here! This time of year is wonderful for watching the Earth go through a drastic, and quite beautiful, change. I see a noticeable increase in newcomers during the Spring and that is a change I love to see.

Last month we celebrated Pi(e) Day and I want to thank everyone who made-and ate!-the delicious pies!

Please remember our new members and friends during Fellowship Hour. I ask you to find a new face and introduce yourself. See how good it feels to keep our congregation growing and thriving!

Kindly,
Erin
Membership Coordinator

Director of Religious Education

Dear Old Ship,

The dates vary year by year, but invariably, when it comes time to plan our Seder and Easter Egg Hunt, I start to see the end of the church year in the distance.

BUT...

There is plenty happening in the next three months; mark your calendars so you don't miss a thing... (And these are just the Religious Education offerings!!)

March 25, Sun 10:30-11:40 SEDER - All R.E. groups

March 30, Friday 5:30 - 7:30 pm - "In This Together: Respectful Parenting"; book club for parents/playgroup for kids

April 1, Sun 10:30-11:40 EASTER - Egg hunt - ALL R.E. groups

April 8, Sun 10:30-11:40 Multi-Gen Worship

April 15, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups

April 15-April 17 Youth Group mini-trip to NYC

April 22, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups

April 29, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups - Father Bill's lunch-making

May 5, Saturday - all day May Breakfast and Plant sale

May 6, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups (also, BIRTHDAY CAKE DAY)

May 13, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups (also, Mother's Day Walk for Peace)

MAY 18-19 (maybe thru 20) Sr. High Youth CON - Providence R.I.

May 20, Sun 9:00 a.m. Graduating Seniors, Breakfast with Ken and Beverly

May 20, Sun 10:30-11:40 Religious Growth and Learning Sunday - Multi-Gen worship

May 20, Sun 12 -1:30 Annual Meeting

May 27, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups - Father Bill's lunch-making

June 3, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups

June 10, Sun 10:30-11:40 Sun school, ALL groups- Father Bill's lunch-making

June 10 - after noon - Pride Day at Old Ship

June 17, Sun 10:30-11:40 Flower Communion - Last day Kids' Quidditch - front lawn

Togetherness, fun, and blessings,
Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education
[Bev's email](#)

Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Mostly Music Sunday is coming up on May 13. The choir will be singing some glorious music during the service, including movements from Bach cantatas with instrumental accompaniment. If you've ever wanted to sing in the choir, now is a wonderful time to give it a try. Join us on Thursday evenings for rehearsal, April 12, 29, May 3, 10, from 7-9 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Questions? Please contact me at musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org.

Peace,
Chris Hossfeld
musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org

Annual Pledge Campaign Wraps up this month



Please be sure to send in your pledge of support for the upcoming church year! The campaign wraps up in April so that the Board of Trustees has time to create a realistic budget for discussion at the Annual Meeting. So far we have heard from just about HALF of our pledging members!! This must be due to... the lingering cold weather? A recurring bout of procrastination? Or maybe Old Ship gives us so much to be grateful for, that it's taking time to translate that into numbers!! Whatever the case, please mail, email or phone in your pledge to Julianna in the office asap.

Many thanks to those trusty do-bees who have already pledged. The Board will begin making follow up calls if we haven't heard by April 15. Thank you!

May Breakfast and Plant Sale is Saturday, May 5.



Snow, what snow? It must be (almost) spring, because the worker bees are already buzzing with **May Breakfast planning!** An Old Ship tradition for over 100 years, this year's May Breakfast will happen on Saturday, May 5 from 7:30 to noon, with breakfast being served from 7:30 -11:00. Come prepared to enjoy cinnamon coffee cake, fresh fruit, sausages, eggs and pancakes, all for the reasonable price of \$7.00. Another highlight of May Breakfast will be the plant sale with its huge selection of green sprouts and buds to get your garden off to a roaring start. In addition, there will be a crafts table, home-baked goods table, and treasures table - so many goodies, so little time!

Calling all gardeners and plant lovers! Please consider digging up and dividing any plants from your yard that you are willing to donate to the plant sale. We need donations of interesting plants to make this plant sale fun and successful! If you can, please divide your plants and put them into pots soon so they will recover from transplant shock and be in good shape for the plant sale. Don't forget to label the plant with the name and any special information about growing conditions (sun, shade, wet, dry, etc.). You can drop donations off by the side door of the Parish House any time during the week prior to the plant sale. There will be a collection of empty pots by the Parish House office. If you need additional pots or need any help digging your perennials, please contact Janice McPhillips at jbbmcphillips@gmail.com or 781-740-8782.

There are many ways you can help in addition to donating plants. We need helpers to set up the plant sale on Friday, May 4, we need help selling plants on the day of the plant sale, we need help digging up plants from the Memorial Garden behind the Meeting House and from some gardens around town. We also need help bagging up some composted horse manure to sell at the plant sale. If any of those activities sound appealing to you, please get in touch with Janice.

Other volunteers needed! Please help keep this wonderful Old Ship May Breakfast and Plant Sale tradition alive. It's a chance for each Old Shipper to play a part in supporting Old Ship and to have fun at the same time! We need lots of volunteers. With two shifts to fill (breakfast 7:15-9:15 and 9:00-11:00), we need all of you to help. Opportunities abound! Try your hand as a member of the wait staff or in the kitchen flipping pancakes, cooking eggs, or running the dishwasher. Help is also needed for set up on Friday morning and clean up on Saturday after the breakfast. Please send an e-mail to Ivy Butterworth (ivy_butter@yahoo.com) to volunteer for the job of your choice. Otherwise, her grey hairs will proliferate!

Social Justice Council

Sunday April 8th Social Justice Forum and Plate Collection for PAIR (Political Asylum/Immigration Representation).

Social Justice Plate Collection: Seth Purcell, raised in Hingham and now an immigration lawyer, will be at our service to describe the work of his organization which helps asylum seekers and other immigrants and which we will be supporting through a Social Justice Plate collection that day.

Forum discussion, 12 noon in the Parlor:

Seth Purcell will be talking with us about his work at a Forum Discussion hosted by Ken Read-Brown. Come learn about PAIR and how it provides free immigration services to indigent asylum-seekers and detained immigrants, assuring fairness and access to justice.

Social Justice Volunteers Needed at UU Urban Ministry on Saturday, April 21

Please join us Saturday, April 21 for an opportunity to volunteer at Fair Foods, a local food justice organization. We will meet at 9:30 am in the Old Ship Parlor for bagels and coffee, before caravanning into the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry in Roxbury where the event will take place. Fair Foods rescues recently-expired fresh fruit and vegetables from being thrown away. We will unload the truck, set up an assembly line, bag the produce, and sell each bag for \$2 to the local Roxbury Community. The event ends at 2 pm and is suitable for children and adults alike. Feel free to stay for 30 minutes or for 3 hours. Come join us!

Sunday April 29:

UUSC Justice Sunday with Local Climate Justice Actions and...

Soup Lunch at Noon in the Fellowship Hall

Old Ship will support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Justice Sunday program, which this year will focus on Environmental Justice and Climate Change. UUSC recognizes the grave dangers that climate change impacts pose to the world's most vulnerable populations. Increasing temperatures and variable precipitation are intensifying natural disasters, melting glaciers, rising sea levels, intensifying droughts and causing widespread flooding. These climate impacts are increasing food and water insecurity, affecting natural resource-based economies and livelihoods and leading to mass displacement. These impacts disproportionately affect the most marginalized populations by multiplying their risks, widening inequalities and threatening their basic human rights and dignities.

This reality has shaped UUSC's Environmental Justice & Climate Action program to focus on advancing and protecting the rights of marginalized populations who are at risk of forced displacement caused by slow-onset climate impacts. UUSC's program emboldens the principle of the right to self-determination by prioritizing building protections in place and when necessary and required by our partners, supporting communities to relocate with dignity.

YOU ARE INVITED to learn about Old Ship's and local climate justice actions we can take over a Soup Lunch at Noon in the Fellowship Hall. Our Green Sanctuary and 350MA.org node members will talk with us about the climate work being considered to help Old Ship become recertified as a Green Sanctuary and other ways to act locally in support of Climate Justice. Please join us for lunch and discussion. You will learn more about UUSC programs in this area on Justice Sunday. You may also learn more at www.uusc.org.

Feeding Others through collecting foods and cash donations (used to buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread for the 175 families who receive help from the Hingham Food Pantry. This month's collection will take place on Sun 4/22 during Fellowship Hour.

Interested in advocating for vulnerable populations?

The Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network sends out alerts when it would be particularly helpful to contact our local and national elected officials, especially during budget negotiations. We also send out notices of advocacy days, state or national, and other opportunities to advocate for those populations particularly at risk in our current times. In the past year, we sent out about 25 such alerts, so if you would like to be on this list, we do not overwhelm you with emails. Our focus is on when we can take actions to advocate for vulnerable populations. How do you get on the list? Just send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at: davalenecooper@verizon.net. Currently, we have about 35 Old Shippers on the list.

Next Social Justice Council meeting, Saturday 5/12 at 9am in the Parlor

Everyone is welcome to join us at our monthly planning meetings to propose new social justice actions or support ongoing ones. Contact Brenda Black (blackpollara@verizon.net) or Kate Philbin (kate.philbin4@gmail.com) if you have any questions.

Green Sanctuary

Our Old Ship based 350MA.org node is working to recertify Old Ship's UU Green Sanctuary accreditation and help our congregation perform a self-assessment, write our plan, and complete projects across: Environmental Justice / Climate Justice, Worship and Celebration, Religious Education, and Sustainable Living.

The 350MA.org members lead twice monthly meetings on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall to explore and plan for actions to challenge climate change in our area. Next meeting April 3 at 7pm. Contact Connie Gorfinkle connieg1233@gmail.com and Turner Bledsoe for information turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net

Support Hingham's application to become a Green Community

The Green Communities program is a state initiative that provides grants to towns for environmental projects. In order to qualify, Hingham must make some commitments as a town to move towards green energy. Most of our neighbors are Green Communities, and the benefits are great.

One requirement to become a Green Community is that Hingham adopt the Stretch Building Code, a version of the state building code that requires energy-efficient construction. This will go before Town Meeting, and the Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee have already voted unanimously to support the change.

On April 5 attend a meeting to learn about the Stretch Building Code, which will come before Hingham Town Meeting, to held at Town Hall at 7pm.

On April 23 attend Town Meeting to vote for it .

Link to latest news from 350Ma.org nodes:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1fTCGpvcAB4i8aftsLcrcZruZeAild4L0GPeQpfKRjoA/edit>

Coffeehouse off the Square

Concerts at 8 pm on the 3rd Saturday of the month in the Parish Hall with proceeds going to the UU Service Committee.

April 21st -Wheelhouse Rodeo:

Come hear a powerful, imaginative northeastern bluegrass band. As they say themselves, "What was once a bluegrass cover band (is now) a songwriting machine" They have over 25 originals with "Land Line Lose" and "Ghost of John" being among the best known. A recent memorable outdoor concert celebrated the renovation of Hull's Fort Revere. Now you can hear them indoors in our Fellowship Hall.

Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

Spring Poetry: Poetry Alive

three sessions, Wednesdays, April 4, 11, and 25 (no class on April 18) 1:00 and 7:00
led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown

For our annual spring poetry class, held during National Poetry month, we will be listening to a wide variety of poems in the voices of the poets themselves as well as in the voices of ordinary folks reading and reflecting upon their favorite poems. For more info and to sign up, contact Ken (oldshipkrb@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, Book Group, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

Meeting House Forum:

Let's Talk: Dealing with Conflict

Thursday, April 5, 2018 @ 7:00 pm

Peace activist Aziz Abu Sarah draws on his deep international experience working with people in conflict to share lessons learned for daily living: how we can bridge gaps in communication and understanding to make peace in a polarized world. After the program, conversation will continue over dessert across the street in the Parish House. The program is offered free of charge. Free-will donations to help cover costs are gratefully accepted.

To see a flyer of this event, [click here](#).

Old Ship Summer Retreat!



Pic from last year's retreat.

Think Sun and Summer!

Even though the Nor'easters keep coming, summer will be here before you know it! And what better way to enjoy the sun and fun than a weekend on the Cape with Old Shippers of all ages...

We have reserved the charming Manor at Craigville Retreat Center, overlooking Nantucket Sound and just minutes by foot from their glorious private-access beach. We will have a lay-led service at the beautiful, historic Tabernacle. There are tennis courts, paths for walking and biking, and grassy fields for kickball, ultimate frisbee, etc. Back in the Manor, fun, multigenerational activities will include jigsaw puzzles and board games galore, such as Scrabble, Codenames, and Man Bites Dog. This year we may even have a lip-sync battle and mini karaoke.

Check-in is Friday July 13 late afternoon and checkout Sunday July 15 late morning. The cost for the weekend, including all-you-can-eat buffet breakfasts (2), lunch (1) and dinners (2), is \$186 for adults (12 and up) and \$91 for children; under 5 is free. Car pools will be available. Space is limited to around 30 guests, and we are already halfway booked with past retreaters. To reserve your spot or if you have any questions at all, please contact Jeff Lee (JCL48@verizon.net, 781-749-9990) or Diane Jordan (dijordan@verizon.net).

We hope you can join us!

Nurturing Community

Old Ship Caregiver Support Group

If you're a Caregiver, please know that Old Ship provides a time and place for you to share your concerns and your ideas about how to manage the emotional and physical challenges of being a Caregiver for a loved one. The Caregivers Support Group's next meeting is Friday, April 6, at 1pm in the Parish House Parlor.

If you're a caregiver, you're invited. If you have questions, please call or email Kitty Ward (781-749-3108, Wardkitty@comcast.net) or Diane Elliott (781-749-2248, dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com).



Community Dinners on April 28

Please join us for an evening of fun, fellowship, and fabulous food at our next evening of community dinners scheduled for Saturday, April 28. Each dinner group of 5-9 adults will gather at the home of another Old Ship member for a congenial evening of dinner and conversation.

To host, you are responsible for sending an e-mail invitation to the group assigned to your home, preparing your home for dinner guests, coordinating the contributions for the potluck dinner, and enjoying the evening.

To attend, you are responsible for cooking or bringing some part of the dinner and enjoying the company of other Old Shippers. The only agenda is to get to know one another better, and all are invited!

To host or attend a please contact Sharon Prehn, 781-925-0101 or prehn@verizon.net

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry, with a rotating membership appointed by our Board of Trustees, meets monthly with our minister, Ken Read-Brown, to reflect on the five ministries of Old Ship and sometimes to discuss particular current concerns or issues with the life of our congregation.

Input, questions, concerns, ideas from Old Ship members and friends is of course always welcome. Feel free to contact Ken or any of the current members of the committee: Ursula Stone, Dave Petrie, Santjes Ooomen-Lochtefeld, Nigel Harvey, Eva Marx, and Rob Baynes.

Worship

Why not lead a Summer Service this year?

One of the most fun things to do at Old Ship, is to lead a summer worship service.

We need 12 folks. If you are interested, we will hold your hand and lead you through it with more information than you can imagine.

Those volunteering should not have presented a service last year. Political views and book reports aren't what Summer Services are about. Inspiring personal stories with happy endings, ways of looking at philosophy or religion are welcome (with expert support).



This is a rewarding challenge. Your presentation should take not more than 20 minutes. Worship and Music Committee members help with set up, take down, and help serve your reception. For more information, and to volunteer, contact Pat Bianco bluesulphur3@yahoo.com (617-774-7474). We do need to know soon.

Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for Old Ship Church. You can drop off your cartridges in the office or in the cabinet right outside the office door. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!



Note from the Office

The deadline for committees' annual reports to be submitted for the Old Ship Annual Report is Friday, May 4. Any submissions after that date will not be included in the printed report, but can be handed out at the Annual Meeting on Sunday, May 20. Thank you. Please email in word form (no pdfs) to: office@oldshipchurch.org.

Julianna will be out of the office April 11-18. All emails and phone calls will be answered upon her return. Thanks.



Bring Snacks!

Fellowship Hour schedule

APRIL 1: Last names beginning with A-H are asked to bring food.

APRIL 8: Living By Heart will host.

APRIL 15: Last names beginning I-P are asked to bring food.

APRIL 22: Food Pantry Collection

APRIL 29: Social Justice Council will host.



Final Candlelight Concert of the Year - Sunday, April 29 at 4pm

Please mark your calendar for the final Candlelight Concert of this season. On Sunday, April 29, Sylvia Berry and the Berry Collective will be appearing at Old Ship Meeting House at 4:00 p.m. You will be in for a special treat as you can read below. Bring your friends and yourself, of course, to this very special event. As always, admission is free; donations are gratefully accepted.

The Berry Collective, curated by fortepianist Sylvia Berry, assembles some of the finest musicians across the early music spectrum to perform 18th- and early 19th-century chamber music on period instruments. The aim is to perform rarely heard gems and well-loved masterworks alike, from Schobert to Schubert. Music from this period (mid 1700's to mid-1800's) is rarely performed on period instruments in the U.S., and it is a joy to introduce audiences to the instruments and performance practices of this era.

<https://www.sylviaberry.org/the-berry-collective/>

Here is a video clip of Sylvia Berry playing Haydn.



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