



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

December 2018 Newsletter

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

Worship

Sunday, December 2, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "Unlikely Teachers." If we are alert, we can find teachers and healers, and their life lessons, in the most unlikely of places, from a homeless family in Bethlehem to a homeless man on the streets of Boston, or from the unwelcome slings and arrows of our own lives.

At noon we will convene a brief Parish meeting to vote on whether to ordain our former intern, Dave Egan, to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. (We have tentatively scheduled his ordination service for February 3.)

Sunday, December 9, 10:25am

"Light One Candle... and Another..." will be Ken's sermon in the midst of this year's celebration of Hanukkah. What must we do to confront the continuing plague of anti-Semitism?

Sunday, December 16, 10:25am

Our annual Christmas Pageant for all Ages will take place during this Sunday's worship service. All will be welcome to participate as the spirit moves. Feeling like an angel... shepherd... wise one...? This will be your day!

Sunday, December 23

This service will include many carols, from very familiar to less familiar, along with stories and a message from Ken.

Christmas Eve: Monday, December 24, 5pm

Old Ship's Christmas Eve service is a beloved tradition not only for us who regularly worship here, but for many others in the wider community. All are warmly welcomed to the stable we call our Old Ship Meeting House - for traditional carols, readings both traditional and not so traditional, beautiful music from Chris and the choir, and a story from Ken.

The Meeting House fills early; wise ones plan to arrive before 4:30. Childcare for the very young will once again be kindly offered in the Parish House nursery by our good friends from Congregation Sha'aray Shalom.

Sunday, December 30 - service of shared readings in the Fellowship Hall

Our annual New Year's breakfast and service of shared readings will take place in our Fellowship Hall: Breakfast at 9:30; worship at 10:30. Everyone is invited to bring a reading to share, or just ears to listen.

Breakfast at 9:30, service at 10:30.



Seasonal Vespers Services

On Wednesday evenings at 6:30 between Thanksgiving and Christmas, there will be vespers services in our gently lit Meeting House. Each service will include music from an Old Ship musician or two, readings from Old Ship readers, plenty of silence, and an opportunity to light a candle for someone or some hope or prayer - all coordinated and led by Ken Read-Brown. Each service will be about forty minutes long.

Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend the Men's Breakfast or Women's Breakfast or The Way of the Bodhisattva study group or a Sunday early morning committee meeting and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office (781-749-1679) by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.

Most Sunday mornings...

Most Sunday mornings at Old Ship begin with gatherings in small circles in the Parish House parlor for sharing and spiritual enrichment. And we are all invited! Our web site has more detailed information about these opportunities: The "Way of the Bodhisattva Study/Meditation Group" meets at 8:30 on the first and third Sundays of each month. "Men's Breakfast" meets at 8:30 on the second Sunday of each month for sharing and conversation. And the Women's Breakfast meets at 8:30 on the fourth Sunday of each month.

from the minister's desk

Musing

It is all too easy to let a day or even days go by without taking a moment to allow gratitude to rise in our hearts. It shouldn't take, for example, a broken elbow to remind me of all I have for which to be grateful: grateful for the young man who without hesitation pulled over near the Hingham Harbor rotary when he saw me down and who then kindly drove my wounded light-headed self home, grateful for all the medical professionals who have tended to repair and recovery, grateful to all of you who have offered heartfelt sympathy and kind offers of assistance, grateful above all to my dear family, grateful for love... not to mention grateful for all the bones that weren't broken!

Believe me, I know there are things far worse than a broken bone. You know this too, some of you in almost unimaginably challenging circumstances. So, how do we humans get through the toughest times? With others by our sides - which means with love. And for many, also with faith in larger sources of life and love, however we might name or understand these sources: God, Spirit, Cosmos...

And with heart-opening gratitude for all the blessings of our lives, even or especially in times of trial.

And one day at time

So: Wherever you find yourself in life this holiday season, whatever the blend of joy and sorrow, I wish you and yours many blessings: blessings of beauty, of kindness, of love - and of gratitude.

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

*My Parish House office hours are ordinarily Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday mornings from about 10:00 - 2:00 and by appointment. Monday is my day off, and Thursday my sermon writing day. My primary phone contact is through the Parish House office - 781-749-1679. The office answering machine includes my cell phone if you need to reach me quickly - since when I am not in the office I am either working in my study at home, or making visits or attending meetings elsewhere. I can also be reached via email, oldshipkrb@gmail.com. --
Ken*

Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Sing with the Choir on Christmas Eve

All are welcome to join the Old Ship choir for Christmas Eve. We start rehearsing the music this Thursday evening, Nov. 29, 7-9pm, in the Meeting House. Music this year will include favorite carols, excerpts from the Vivaldi Gloria, and a motet by Orlando de Lassus. It's a great chance to try out the choir, and you'll have a prime balcony seat on Christmas Eve. Send me an email for more information:

musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org.

Christopher Hossfeld
Director of Music



Tis the Season to Give Thanks

I've been thinking a lot lately about how grateful I am for our Old Ship community. You help me be social, think more deeply, and put my convictions into action. And you comfort me. I think of you as an extension of my family. So, it's easy to decide to give you a gift for Christmas, just as I would to any cherished member of my family. It won't be a lavish gift, but it will help, because I know that our Old Ship community makes great use of every dollar we receive. Will you join me, and make a special gift to Old Ship this December? I hope so! And I'm sure that Old Ship will accept it with gratitude!

- Nina Price, Treasurer and Old Ship family member



Fellowship Hour Food

Each Sunday a segment of the alphabet is asked to provide a plate of snacks for Fellowship Hour as follows:

December 2: A-H
December 9: I-P
December 16: Q-Z
December 23: A-H



Merrie Market! Saturday, December 1, 2018 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

This special holiday bazaar & cafe features a sale table of treasures from the attic, baked goods, gift baskets, crafts, used books, children's toys, a silent auction, gingerbread house

raffle, and the highpoint: spectacular holiday wreaths, created by Old Ship members. Not to mention the famous Old Ship chili and other goodies served in the cafe. Please come shop, stay for lunch and enjoy! Bring a friend or two as well!



Other December Events

Carpool Caroling - Saturday, Dec. 8, 1:00 p.m.

Our annual carpool caroling expedition will be on the afternoon of December 8. We will gather just before 2:00 at the Parish House, and then head right out to make several stops, including a nursing home and also the homes of a few Old Ship folks who are unable to get out much any longer. All are welcome - whatever your age and however well you believe yourself to sing. Enthusiasm is more important than the "right" notes! Caroling books will be provided.

Gingerbread House Making - Saturday, Dec. 8, 4:00 p.m. Fellowship Hall

Join us for our annual Gingerbread House Making party in the Fellowship Hall. Chili, corn bread & hot cider will be available for snacking while we build. **EVERYONE'S INVITED!!** If you've never built a gingerbread house, this is the perfect time to start a new family tradition! Prepare your walls in advance - recipes and templates will be available during coffee hours. Show up at the Parish House on Saturday the 8th at 4:00 with walls, a tray large enough to hold your finished house, and some fun decorations to share. Bring a store-bought kit or a box of graham crackers and an empty milk carton or two! Icing glue, enthusiasm, and construction assistance will be supplied.

Community Dinners also on December 8

Please join us for an evening of fun and fellowship on Saturday, December 8 for a Community Dinner. These dinners are groups of 5-9 adults who 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 please contact Sharon Prehn, 781-925-0101 or prehn@verizon.net

Coffeehouse off the Square presents Aine Minogue

Sunday, December 16 at 4:00 pm in the Meeting House

Aine's renowned harp playing, her beautiful, nearly ethereal voice, and her often enchanting guests have made this near sell-out event the high point of six recent seasons. From her time as harpist in residence at Ireland's Bunratty Castle to her playing and teaching here in the United States, (often at Hingham's Aisling Gallery), Aine only gets better and more compelling. This time she will b...e returning to the very fitting setting of the Old Ship Church.

22nd Annual Winter Solstice Poetry Evening

This year's Winter Solstice event will take place on Friday, Dec. 21st at 7 PM in the Meetinghouse. The annual celebration marks the shortest day of the year with poetry and song. You are invited to bring a favorite winter poem, or a poem about hope, or the coming of light to read, or simply come and listen in the candle-lit peaceful quiet of the Meetinghouse. The Crossroads Singers, led by Rich Jensen, will perform poems set to music.

For more info: Elizabeth Torrey (781-749-0543)

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team meets monthly with Ken and often coordinates meals and other forms of caring for Old Ship individuals and families in the midst of illness or crisis. If you have a need or are aware of a need that the PCLT might be able to help meet, you may be in touch with Ken or any member of the group. At Old Ship we all share in our mutual caring and helping one another; the Pastoral Care Leadership Team simply helps to identify needs and coordinate responses.



There are specifically three ways Old Ship members might want to help out:

Rides: Would you be able to give an Old Ship parishioner a ride to church, either regularly or from time to time?

Food: Would you be willing to prepare a casserole to be given to someone who could use a little extra help following a hospitalization or in the midst of illness or treatments?

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

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

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

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

Why Old Ship?

As the second person to write in this series of personal notes about why we chose Old Ship, after the beautiful statement by Janet Asnes in November, I am reminded that there are universal themes that most of us are likely to share... search for community, a safe yet challenging place to explore the deeper issues of life, a group of people who share common values and find meaning in life through action for justice and peace, to name a few. Janet's statement could almost be mine, as well.

So I'll focus on this: When I joined Old Ship over 30 years ago as a 30-year-old mother looking for a church for my children, I didn't know what I didn't yet know. And I hadn't found my voice. Ken's sermons and the many adult ed classes I took about finding my spiritual path, especially our phenomenal "Goddess Group," opened my mind to concepts I had only glimpsed earlier, but that deeply resonated. Each day seemed to bring a new "ah Ha!" Moment, and I never felt more stimulated. At the same time, I joined at the front end of a wave of new families, and together we worked to grow the RE program into a large, truly cooperative church school bursting with joyous intergenerational energy. Chairing the RE Committee during this transformational time showed me that I LOVE meaningful, productive, shared committee work! And, in Old Ship's welcoming and safe environment, with a common vision that I believed deeply in, I overcame

my extreme fear of speaking in public, which for me was a giant step that opened doors to all my future work.

I remember giving a testimonial early on where I said that finally, I had found a place where my inner self matched with my outer self. I felt whole, valued, and as if I had something to share. Old Ship still does that for me... with many new friends and challenges always keeping things stimulating. I can't imagine what I would be like as a person, had I not landed here. Old Ship has shaped me for good, and I'm grateful way beyond these words.

Looking forward to what's next!

Nina Wellford Price

Past President and many other roles... current Treasurer

Thinking of becoming a member?

Do you like Old Ship and enjoy the Old Ship community? Do you find yourself identifying with the UU principles of freedom and reason in religion? If the answer is yes, then perhaps it is time to consider becoming a member. Often, arriving at Unitarian Universalism is just a step in the evolution of one's thinking and convictions.



By signing the membership book you are affirming your connection and commitment to Old Ship and to an open minded, reasoned, compassionate, and inclusive approach to life and spirituality. We will offer support and encouragement to you as you develop your own spirituality, and we ask that you offer your time, energy & financial support in affirming the ideals and values to which we aspire. As a member, you will be able to vote and participate in the decision making process of the church. Please contact Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkreb@gmail.com) or Ivy Butterworth (781-749-3190 or ivy_butter@yahoo.com) for more information or to answer any questions/concerns.

Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

Winter Solstice Celebration, Friday, December 21, 7:00pm, Meetinghouse

This season's Crossing Time is the Winter Solstice (marking the longest night of the year, and then the return of more light.) We will gather in our Old Ship Meetinghouse on the eve of the Solstice. Bring a poem to read, or simply come and listen. Leave the busyness of the holiday rush, and nourish your spirit with the steady and sturdy truths and beauties of poetry. The choral quintet, "Crossroads", led by Old Ship's Rich Jensen, will perform some winter carols and poetry set to music. This event is free. Come, bring a friend. All are welcome.

Ebenezer Gay's Lessons for Living

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

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

[ken's email](#)

Other ongoing groups and gatherings....

[Link here](#) to the page on our web site that includes descriptions of all these groups: from opportunities to meditate and study spiritual texts ancient and modern as described above, to the Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, Sewing Group, and the monthly Ceilidh song circle.

Serving Others

Holiday Party for South Shore Friends of the Homeless

Thursday, December 13 from 5-9pm, Fellowship Hall. A very festive event for the parents and children living in local shelters. Old Ship is hosting the meal and many other community groups are providing decorations, music, and fun activities for the children. Thank you for your generous donations at the Special Plate Collection on 11/15: a total of \$1007 was raised which will fully fund the holiday meal; the remaining several hundred dollars will go as a direct donation to Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore. If you would like to help with



cooking or serving the meal, help families get their food and drink to their tables, or help with clean up after the meal please contact Elaine Gomez:

eh-gomez@comcast.net (781-740-1663)

Holiday gifts for children in Foster Care

Thank you Old Ship elves for selecting all the names of foster children needing some joy this holiday season! Wrapped gifts should be returned during any coffee hour through 12/10 (last day is 12/09 in order to have the gifts delivered to the children in time for Christmas). Contact Carol Valentine with any questions:

cvbostonma@aol.com



Social Justice Council (SJC) News

Serving Others through bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry. The SJC invites you to Serve Others by bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry when you come to Old Ship. We have a collection basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House each Sunday to receive your donation. The collection box in the outer vestibule of the Parish House is also available to accept donations when you come for classes or meetings or anytime. The Hingham Food Pantry is especially grateful for donations at this time of year. Click here for the full list of items the pantry needs:

<http://www.oldshipchurch.org/opportunities-to-serve.html>

Guest at Your Table: Justice Across Borders

December Social Justice Special Plate Collection

Remember to return Guest at Your Table boxes Sunday, December 9. This will be the date of our December special plate outreach and our offering will be donated to the Guest at Your Table program of the UUSC. Help us to support the critical programs of UUSC on the southern border and throughout the world.

Justice Across the Borders is theme of this year's Guest at Your Table Program from UUSC. Violence, impunity, and corruption have forced thousands of Central Americans to flee their homes. All people have the rights to safety, human dignity, and a process to seek asylum. Yet when they flee, migrants face further dangers and abuses designed to deter them from their journey. Upon reaching the United States, they can be detained, prosecuted, or have their family members taken from them. After years spent building their lives in the United States, they

may still be at risk of deportation. UUSC's strategy uses a regional lens, aimed at three aspects of the issue: The right to safety in Central America, the right to safety on the migrant trail, and human rights and the U.S. immigration system. Partnering with grassroots allies along the Central American migration trail, UUSC addresses root causes, supports migrants in transit, and protects the right to seek asylum. To learn more about UUSC's work in this area, go to <https://www.uusc.org/initiatives/central-american-migrant-justice/>

Faith in Action: Living Our Values, Building Our Vision

Social Justice Action Conference coming to Old Ship on Saturday, January 26, 2019!

This is our opportunity to learn how to be more effective as we advocate for social justice. The program begins at 9:45 a.m. and ends at 3:15 p.m. There is no charge to attend and lunch will be provided. The morning workshop is "Faith in Action: Organizing Effective Justice Ministry Teams," presented by the UU College of Social Justice. In a political climate hostile to human rights, environmental protection, and even to the truth, we want to show up and speak out in ways that will make a difference. This workshop explores how we can better organize ourselves to harness the power at the intersection of faith and justice. The afternoon workshop is on Climate Justice, and is presented by Mass Action. The workshop will focus on why this issue is important to UUs, how it impacts us in Massachusetts and the South Shore, and what actions we can take related to climate justice.

We invite you to attend for the entire day, or any part of the day that is of most interest to you. Although you may register on the day of the conference, pre-registration will help us plan for meals. To register, contact Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790.

Green Sanctuary

Since the alarming IPCC report on global warming of last October, NOAA has issued its own annual report on global warming which confirms the IPCC's in almost all details.

Environmentalist Bill McKibbin - founder of 350.org - in a follow-up New Yorker article has filled in the historical context of our struggle for survival against the corrupting financial interest of the petroleum industry - who persist in denial, dismissive contempt, and deceptive marketing of natural gas. Most insidious is the industry's massive funding of political opposition not only to needed regulatory policy at the state level but even to creating a paid "grassroots campaign" against local projects for innovation and development of public transportation.

On the brighter side, these reports and the results of the mid-term elections appear to have opened the door (1/2 crack) to a torrent of pent up political action to launch a "Green New Deal" which has as its base a call for a massive and speedy national transition to 100% renewable energy for our electric grid; a call for abstinence from petroleum industry political donations, and high priority for environmental and social justice legislation. A new grassroots youth organization the "Sunrise Movement" (born in MA) has launched a campaign already targeting the freshmen congressmen to make climate change their top priority. Already Alexandria Ocasio - Cortez (NY-Dem) and newly elected Ayanna Pressley (MA-Dem) are among those supporting the call. Nancy Pelosi has promised - if elected Speaker - to create a special congressional committee to develop the needed legislation. If this campaign succeeds it will finally put the US on the same track that Massachusetts is following: The Path to 100% renewable electrical energy and "net zero" (Carbon) municipalities supported by most of the significant environmental organizations in the state (Mass Power Forward coalition and others). Our 350MA Southshore Node voted to support the concept of the Green New Deal as defined by Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez's proposal for a new congressional Select Committee of the House of Representatives.

As a take away from our Sunday presentation on November 11th there is one overriding recommendation: Since in Hingham our electricity has been switched entirely to fossil-free energy sources, at your first opportunity electrify every energy source and start your transition away from addiction to the use of oil, gasoline or natural gas. None of these fuels are clean. Of these - natural gas is the worst choice because raw methane leaks into the air throughout the entire gas distribution system. Every household could switch from oil or gas heat to the use of air to air heat pumps. This switch can be done without dismantling existing systems. Every household can switch from gas cooking to electric radiant or induction stoves (induction being fast, 90% more efficient and easy to control). If you are considering buying a new car - consider leasing an all-electric or plug in vehicle. If you don't live in Hingham, work with your local environmental activists to convert the town to renewable sources (All the towns of the South Shore are now working on it). Our goal should be: Carbon Free by 2045. (Thank you for reading this far :) Turner Bledsoe - Green Sanctuary Committee Chair/Southshore Node-350MA

Looking for ways to deepen your anti-racism commitment and learning? Join the many ways to support the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. Based in Roxbury, "the UU Urban Ministry unites communities and transforms individuals through education, service, and advocacy. We engage communities and congregations in social action and change, with programs that empower youth and adults to realize their full potential."

If you are curious about other ways to be in community with the UUUM in Boston, click here to learn more about their other opportunities.

fair foods inc.
a 501(c)3 non-profit organization

- Ongoing-Join Old Shippers who volunteer once a month with UU Urban Ministry's Fair Foods affordable food distribution at UUUM headquarters at 10 Putnam St in Roxbury. Email pamharty@comcast.net to be connected with them.
- December 9, 3:30 pm at Emerson's Paramount Center (559 Washington Street, Boston). Join Roxbury Connections and the UUUM for Langston Hughes' iconic gospel holiday favorite, Black Nativity - "the Black community's Christmas gift to the world".
 - Please book your own tickets on the ArtsEmerson site here.
 - Join us at 2:15 in the lobby for a reception with Barry Gaither, Director of the Museum of the National Center for Afro-American Artists. To RSVP for the reception, please email Marcia Butman at mbutman@gmail.com.
- December 11, 6 pm in the UUUM Meetinghouse: Community supper, followed by dessert, tree decorating, and caroling. Fun for all ages!
- December 15, 4 pm at the UUUM: Classical guitar by John Muratore in the Meetinghouse to celebrate the season. Suggested donation of \$10.

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.

Interested in Social Justice work at Old Ship?

You are welcome at any Social Justice Council meeting to talk with us about your ideas of how Old Ship can Serve Others. Next SJC meeting will be Sat 1/5/2019 at 9 am in the Parlor.



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!

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

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