



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

February 2018 Newsletter

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Worship

Sunday, February 4, 10:25am

"The Other": Our student intern minister, Dave Egan will explore our experience with identity and how it frames how we see the other. How is it that after millions of years of evolution and progress, do we so easily slip back into tribalism and nationalism?

Sunday, February 11, 10:25am

This service for all ages, coming a few days before Valentines Day, will be a celebration of "all kinds of love" through story and song. Though we may ordinarily think of "love" in relation to our romantic partners and families in general, there are of course many other manifestations of love in our lives, from love of friends to love we extend to all creatures great and small. Join us for this multi-generational celebration of love!



(All ages are welcome to the service, but the nursery will also be open in the Parish House if you think your very young one - up to and including age 5 - would be happier there.)

During fellowship hour the Youth Group will be dishing up baked potatoes with all the fixings, chili and salad. This fundraiser has become an annual community tradition so please come join us! Baked potatoes with condiments and salad \$5. \$1 more will get you chili.

Sunday, February 18, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "What's So Funny About the Banjo?" Ken writes: "I've been playing the banjo for about fifty years. And though I enjoy (most) banjo jokes, the history of the instrument with its antecedents in Africa and the Caribbean, its role in the context of African American slavery and then in blackface minstrelsy leads to more serious reflections as well."

Sunday, February 25, 10:25am

The Edict of Torda (in what is now Romania), was issued by King John Sigismund January 13, 1568 - almost exactly 450 years ago. Sigismund was Unitarian, and the edict was a proclamation of religious tolerance, one of the keystones of our faith tradition. In recognition of this anniversary, Ken's sermon will be: "Tolerance: Just the First Step"

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 remarkable, but actually shouldn't be surprising that texts composed hundreds or even thousands of years ago still so often feel relevant to our lives. After all, though much has changed in the world - technologically and otherwise - the essence of the human condition hasn't changed one bit. Life expectancy may be on average much longer, but it is still true that our life spans are finite. Our modes of communication have most certainly changed, but we still need to navigate relationships. We still need enough food to eat and shelter from the cold and rain. And we still need to figure out how best to organize ourselves politically.

So, it is no surprise at all that, for example, the following few sentiments from three of the Chinese philosophers some of us are studying together this winter still have the clear ring of relevance:

From Confucius:

The exemplary person understands rightness,
whereas the petty person understands profit.
The exemplary person wishes to be slow to speak, but quick to act.
If you are exacting with yourself but forgiving to others, then you will put enmity at a distance.

From Mencius:

To turn toward oneself and discover integrity - there is no greater delight than this. To firmly act out of sympathetic understanding - there is nothing closer to benevolence than this.

From Lao Tzu:

The greatest evil: wanting more
The worst luck: discontent.
Greed's the curse of life.
To know enough's enough
is enough to know.

**

True words aren't charming,
charming words aren't true.
Good people aren't contentious,
contentious people aren't good...

Wise souls don't hoard;
the more they do for others the more they have,
the more they give the richer they are.
The Way of heaven profits without destroying.
Doing without outdoing
is the Way of the wise.

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

Director of Religious Education

Dear Old Ship,

Once a month, Ken, Chris, Dave and I are collaborating to create a worship service in the meetinghouse that will engage and emotionally move... well... pretty much everyone. And if what folks are telling us is truthful, it's pretty much working. So far, we've gotten rave reviews regarding these multi-generational worship services.

It is one of the hardest kinds of worship to do well, and we are tickled that it's working.
AND we are having fun doing it!
Pretty much a win-win, right?

Well.....

If you're 3 or 4 or 5 years old, an hour in the Meeting House is an hour in the Meeting House, no matter how carefully it's crafted.
Sigh.

If you have a child that age and find that these multi-generational worships have made your life harder rather than richer, please know that the Nursery guidelines are expanded on multi-gen Sundays.

If you want to bring your 3, 4 or 5 year old to the Nursery while you attend the multi-gen worship, know that you are absolutely invited to do that.

Nursery staff will love having them back again for an occasional "alumni reunion".

Warm blankets and stuffed animals
Beverly Tricco
Director of Religious Education
beverlytmail@gmail.com

P.S. We've gotten great reviews about our multi-generational service. If you haven't read the letter describing why we are doing these, please see attached [multigen letter](#)

Youth Group

Warm Hearts - Hot Potatoes

It's that time of year when we warm each other with love and the Youth Group warms the tummies of the congregation with hot potatoes! During fellowship hour the Youth Group will be dishing up baked potatoes with all the fixings, chili and salad. This fundraiser has become an annual community tradition so please come join us! Baked potatoes with condiments and salad \$5. \$1 more will get you chili.

Youth Group gives out Kiva loans

The Old Ship Youth Group has been making Kiva loans for 10 years. By lending a little as \$25 on Kiva, anyone can help a borrower start or grow a business, go to school, access clean energy, or realize their potential. For some, it is a matter of survival, for others, it's the fuel for a

life-long ambition. Kiva loans are loans that change lives. From Kiva:

Old Ship Church, thank you!

We're grateful you chose to create opportunity with Kiva!

Here's a summary of your recent contributions:

Loans

Gilbert Williams,
Uganda, Agriculture, \$50
Prabhati, India,
Services, \$50
Pedro Jesus, Peru, Agriculture, \$50
Pablo, Mexico, Health, \$25
Rosendo, Mexico, Personal Use, \$25
Emilio, Mexico, Personal Use \$25
Alice's Group, Kenya, Agriculture, \$25
James' Group, Kenya, Agriculture, \$75



A dose of inspiration:

Ernestina makes a name for herself



Ernestina took out a \$500 Kiva loan to buy raw materials for her carving workshop. The loan helped her make money to support her 8 adopted children.

Music Notes

There will be some exciting musical happenings at Old Ship this month. Coming up on February 10, the choir will be joining forces with the Youth Group to present our next Choral Vespers. The Youth Group has been great to work with and has brought some innovative ideas to the service- we are excited to share it with you! The service will begin at 7 p.m. in the Meeting House, followed by dessert across the street in Fellowship Hall.

Do you play an instrument? Would you like to play it during worship at Old Ship? There are a few Sundays coming up when the choir isn't singing and it would be great to feature some of our more diverse talents. The dates are Feb. 18, April 15, and May 27. Let me know if you are interested and when you are available and we can work together to find something for you to play.

Best wishes to you all,
Chris
Director of Music
musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org

Membership Notes

Do you like Vespers? Do you like dessert? Then you'll love our Vespers and Dessert "pot-luck" on February 10th! For more information please contact Erin Alix, Membership Coordinator, at membership@oldshipchurch.org. I'd love to see you there!



Note from David Egan, student intern minister

During this dark and cold time of year, I invite you to take a moment and reflect on this wonderful poem by Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert.

Life Is Always Unfinished Business
~Rev. Dr. Richard S. Gilbert

In the midst of the whirling day,
In the hectic rush to be doing,
In the frantic pace of life,
Pause here for a moment.

Catch your breath;
Relax your body;
Loosen your grip on life.

Consider that our lives are always unfinished business;
Imagine that the picture of our being is never complete;
Allow your life to be a work in progress.

Do not hurry to mold the masterpiece;
Do not rush to finish the picture;
Do not be impatient to complete the drawing.
From beckoning birth to dawning death we are in process,
And always there is more to be done.

Do not let the incompleteness weigh on your spirit;
Do not despair that imperfection marks your every day;
Do not fear that we are still in the making.

Let us instead be grateful that the world is still to be created;
Let us give thanks that we can be more than we are;
Let us celebrate the power of the incomplete;
For life is always unfinished business.

Blessings,
Dave Egan
Student Intern Minister

From the Board of Trustees

Hello, please see the revised Old Ship alcohol use policy, [attached here](#). As with all the policies at Old Ship it's important to review them with some consistency. Although this has not always been the case, the alcohol use policy was reviewed and revised approximately three years ago. When the Board of Trustees was asked last spring to take a look at the policy again we were happy to do so. We noticed the policy was somewhat ambiguous, a bit confusing and challenging to follow. Its review raised a variety of factors and values to consider. Things like : how to be fully welcoming to all members and friends, how to maintain a consistently safe environment on site, offer clear guidance to event planners, articulate overarching policy purpose, and the like. So the Board of Trustees over the past several months has written and revised, written and revised, discussed, discussed again, and sought counsel on this policy on behalf of the congregation. This is the policy we have landed on and it is effective March 1st.

It cannot be perfect. Some people will delight at the clarity, other people might be disappointed with it. Please know that the board deliberated with great seriousness and thoroughness, with an intentional open heart and an eye for practical considerations as well, for several months, in order to come to this finalized policy. As a practice, the board reviews all policies on a regular basis and as requested by the congregation. Please feel free to speak directly with a board member if you have questions or concerns...

Also, as a reminder, Old Ship is organized around five different ministries. [Here](#) is a diagram of those ministries.

Educating Minds and Hearts

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.

Find your place in the UU interdependent web beginning Tues., Feb. 13, by Ralph Brown

Self-discovery through genealogy is the name I've given to an Old Ship class that I'm going to lead in February. I'm excited about bringing this class to Old Ship, because it lets me share my belief that I am part of something larger than myself, a belief that is central to my idea of being a Unitarian Universalist.



Genealogy means knowing about generations. It is the study of families, and the people who comprise them. As such, it reveals the networks of people in our lives, people who have shaped who we are. It is a way for me to see myself as part of something larger than me.

Genealogy is a powerful way to immerse ourselves in the seventh principal of Unitarianism and Universalism: respect for the interdependent web of all existence, of which we are a part. My mother, Louise, sparked my interest in genealogy not long before she died in 1996. She showed me a particular type of genealogical chart that she had prepared with her father. It was called a "fan chart" because it arranged family members and generations in the shape of a fan. This chart placed her at its center, surrounded by all the people who came before her, who shaped who she was. This showed me, visually, how my mother was part of something larger than herself. And by extension, I could see me that way, too.

This class, first offered in 2014, will focus on basic methods for gathering genealogical data and recording it in commonly accepted forms. We'll also discuss techniques for conducting field research. The use of computers is not required for the class. The basic methods for gathering, recording and presenting data can be performed manually. Computers are extremely useful tools in genealogy, however, so we will talk about them. We'll also look at using online genealogical databases.

The class will start on Tuesday, Feb. 13, in the parlor of the Parish House. It will take place from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. Subsequent sessions will take place on Feb. 20, Feb. 27, March 13 and March 20. People who are interested in joining the class should contact me by email at ralph.e.brown@gmail.com or telephone at 781-925-9197.

Facing Death with Life

six Wednesdays, Feb. 21 - March 28 7:00

led by Rich Elliott and Ken Read-Brown

Despite the constant presence of death, dying, and grief in our lives, we mostly avoid speaking of it openly and directly. This class will facilitate a process of personal reflection, learning, and spiritual growth focused on topics relating to death and dying. We will invite participants to experience death and dying as a healthy part of life. For more information, contact: Ken at oldshipkrb@gmail.com or Rich at richelliott56@gmail.com

So You Want to Meditate, Sat., 3:00-5:00, February 24 (rescheduled from January 20)

led by Ken Read-Brown

Whether you are a long time meditator or wish to begin, these occasional gatherings will offer some basic instruction in mindfulness meditation and in Eknath Easwaran's passage meditation. There will be time for questions and conversation, and time to meditate. Contact Ken for more information - at oldshipkrb@gmail.com or cell: 781-635-2060. No need to sign up in advance.

Sacred Texts Meditation Group - The Tao Te Ching: Newcomers welcome!

ongoing: second and fourth Thursday afternoons 4-5:30

led by Ken Read-Brown

Each gathering includes time for meditation and then conversation based on ideas and readings in ancient scriptures. In March we will be starting a new (for the group) text, the *Tao Te Ching*, so this will be a particularly good time for newcomers to join the group. Contact Ken Read-Brown for further information and to sign up: oldshipkrb@gmail.com.

Serving Others

Serving Others Ministry

Our mission:

To bring the values of mind and heart into the work of our hands. Our shared social values are expressed in Old Ship's third purpose, which affirms our intention to "act for ecological and social justice," and by Unitarian Universalist Principles which call us to work for "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations," and toward "the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all."

Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council is charged with coordinating and supporting the Serving Others Ministry at Old Ship. Based on the congregation's vote in May 2017, the current focus of our Social Justice work is "Protecting Vulnerable Populations". The Social Justice Council (SJC) explores opportunities for the Old Ship community to support social justice programs or initiatives on a local, national, and global basis, and provide guidance and support to any in the congregation who would like to lead an action to help a vulnerable population.

Recent Activities:

- Coordinated our monthly Special Plate Collections through which more than \$4000 has been collected and donated to support the work of: International Institute of New England (supporting new refugees and immigrants to our area), South Shore Friends of the Homeless (to fund the holiday party dinner and provide additional funds for their programming for homeless families), Guest at Your Table (to support the work of the UU Service Committee), and the Outreach Program (to support distribution of nutritious meals to local hungry families and individuals).
- "Serving Others"/ "Feeding Others" food collections for the Hingham Food Pantry in lieu of snacks for the congregation once per month. We have collected a total of 482 lbs of non-perishable foods and \$99 towards the purchase of fresh fruits and vegetables from October 2017- January 2018.
- Maintain the Old Ship Action Alert Network to provide timely email alerts to those who have signed up about ways one can act in support of a vulnerable population (advocacy for legislation, demonstrations and other actions). To sign up, contact Davalene Cooper

(davalenecooper@verizon.net).

- Supported the December Holiday Party for residents of the family shelters run by South Shore Friends of the Homeless.
- Supported the annual gift program for children in foster (DCF) care: gifts provided for 53 children this year from a few months through 17 yrs. old.
- Supported the Father Bill's Cooking team: six teams each providing four dinner meals annually to feed the residents of Father Bill's Shelter for homeless adults in Quincy

Upcoming Activities

- Sunday Feb 25: Serving Others food collection for the Hingham Food Pantry in lieu of Fellowship Hour snack.
- Social Justice Plate collections for the Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program and the Mass Energy Coalition.
- March 5: Annual Food Drive at Stop and Shop to stock the shelves at the Hingham Food Pantry (last year this drive collected almost 1400 lbs of food and \$360 in cash for the Food Pantry).
- Saturday March 10: The SJC welcomes all to our meetings whether you are interested in helping plan ongoing actions or if you would like to propose a new action in support of a vulnerable population. Our meetings take place on Saturday mornings at 9am in the Parish House and are announced in the monthly newsletter, and the Order of Service, or you can contact co-chairs Brenda Black or Kate Philbin at blackpollara@verizon.net or kate.philbin4@gmail.com

Green Sanctuary

Our Old Ship based 350MA.org node is working to renew 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 Green Sanctuary Program provides structure, leadership and support, in broad collaboration, for the UU faith community to engage in an ambitious Environmental Justice and Climate Justice movement that seeks to live fully our seventh principle and achieve our vision of a viable and just world for all.

Our Green Sanctuary and 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. Contact Connie Gorfinkle connieg1233@gmail.com and Turner Bledsoe turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net for information.

Anti-Racism Working Group

The Antiracism Working Group plans to meet monthly (4th Sunday, noon in parlor) and is led by a multi-racial committee to help guide discussion around deepening our understanding of internal bias and systemic race-based oppression. We will work to identify ways we can dismantle racist and oppressive systems outside of our church lives, and we commit to providing resources to learn (and unlearn) how systemic racism operates, and to guide meaningful work toward repairing racial injustice within our own communities. Contact Pam Harty for more information pamharty@comcast.net

Social Outreach Grant Program

The Social Outreach committee reviews and awards grants from Old Ship's Social Outreach Endowment Fund to organizations performing social justice work on our area. Contact Judy Sneath for more information jssneath@hotmail.com

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. Enjoy great music and support the UUSC's efforts to work with people and communities who are denied their rights because of who they are - women, people of color, refugees, religious minorities, LGBTQ individuals in Africa, and others. Every day, UUSC takes action to promote economic justice, bolster environmental justice, and protect rights at risk. No matter when or where, UUSC works to deliver aid with dignity and to advance the rights of people who might otherwise be left behind. Look for the concert schedule on our website or contact Eric Cornetta at eecornetta@verizon.net

Next concert: February 17th Bow Thayer- Vermont based son of Hingham back to where he began with the 80s Hingham super group "Metamorphosis". He has been the driving force in many bands, leading his "Perfect Train Wreck" to an "Album of the Year." He has 13 CDs to his

name and plays all things string; guitar, mandolin, ukulele, and banjo. He also composes; one reviewer notes that he "is among the state's finest songwriters... with every song deserving to be an instant classic."

Thanks for all who gave to our Renewal House Fundraiser - over \$2000 raised!

Dorothy Anderson
Benson-Cummings Family
Ralph E. Brown
Nestor & Cynthia
Davalene Cooper
Diane Elliott
Lisa & Paul Florenzano
Connie Gorfinkle
In memory of Donna Mayberry Greenberg
Edith & Cal Larson
Carolyn & Stephen Locke
Charles & Jane Malme
David & Mary Murphy
Eva & Tom Marx
Susan O'Reilly Rabuffo
Page Railsback
Virginia Pomeroy
Tom & Betty Potter
Ken & Susan Read-Brown
Eliana & Doug Reffue
Marty Saunders
Gail Slater
The Sneath Family
Mary & Hal Thomas
Peggy Ulrich-Nims
Tom & Diane Willson
Pia J. Young
Anonymous (4)

Among Us

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, oldshipkrb@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.

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 Oomen-Lochtefeld, Nigel Harvey, Eva Marx, and Rob Baynes.

Old Ship member Florence Noonan speaks at Temple Beth David on Feb. 4

What do Agatha Christie, Dorothy Sayers and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle Have in Common?" Sunday, February 4th (snow date 2/11) 1 p.m. See a 50 minute PowerPoint presentation by author, Florence Noonan, comparing 3 British Mystery Writers. Did you know that Agatha Christie disappeared for eleven days when she was 36 years old? Hear the fascinating details of how and why she disappeared. Hear how Sayers and Doyle aided in the search to find her. Discover the secrets of The Detection Club and Eric the Skull. The program is free and open to all. Temple Beth David of the South Shore is located at 1060 Randolph street in Canton, MA.

Lincoln Day at Old Ship

All are welcome to Hingham's annual Lincoln Day, sponsored by the Hingham Historical Society. Lincoln Day celebrates Hingham's Revolutionary War hero, General Benjamin Lincoln, and President Abraham Lincoln, whose ancestors hailed from Hingham. At 10:15 on Saturday, February 10, the Hingham Militia will muster by our Old Ship Meeting House and march to Benjamin Lincoln's grave in Hingham Cemetery. Inside the Meeting House, a ceremony begins at 11:00 a.m. This year's keynote speaker will be Jim Conroy, Hingham resident and noted Civil War author. Ken Read-Brown will offer the invocation, and Chris Hossfeld will lead the music. In addition to the Militia, re-enactment groups from the Revolutionary War and Civil War eras will also be present.

The ceremony will be followed by a march to Fountain Square, where a wreath will be laid at the foot of Abraham Lincoln's statue. Participants will then retire to Old Derby Academy for light refreshments hosted by the Historical Society.

Please return the vases

The Sunday Flowers Committee urgently ask you to return the containers that you have taken your flowers home in. Please put them in the pantry off the kitchen.

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

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