



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

[office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org) [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

### January 2018 Newsletter

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## Worship

### Sunday, January 7, 10:25am

"Confucian Wisdom for Our Times" will be Ken's sermon as we begin a new year of worship in our Old Ship Meeting House. What might ancient Chinese philosophers have to offer us in both our personal and political lives? (This sermon will also serve as an introduction to Ken's class on Chinese Philosophy, which begins on Wednesday, January 10 - details elsewhere in the newsletter.)

This Sunday our monthly outreach collection will support the interfaith Martin Luther King Day service project packaging meals for hungry fellow citizens, which will be held on Monday, January 15, beginning at 9:00 a.m. at St. John's Episcopal Church in Hingham. (See details elsewhere in the newsletter.)

At noon Ken will host a conversation in the Parish House parlor: Reflections as the new year begins. We'll be sharing our thoughts, resolutions, hopes and/or fears as we begin a new year.



### Sunday, January 14, 10:25am

This service for all ages, one day before the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., will have for its theme: "Bending Towards Justice" - inspired by words often cited by Dr. King from the 19th century Unitarian preacher and abolitionist Rev. Theodore Parker, who wrote: "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice." There will be a discussion of themes raised by the service in the Parish House parlor at noon.

### Sunday, January 21, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "The 'Useless' Tree" - based on a story from the Taoist philosopher Chuang Tzu. Is anything or anyone actually useless? Maybe it just takes deeper discernment. At noon in the Parish House parlor, Old Ship member Rev. Shuma Chakravarty will be speaking about and reading from her book "Glimpses of Anne of Cleves". What can we learn from the life and character of Anne of Cleves, the fourth wife of Henry VIII?

### Sunday, January 28

This will be the annual pulpit exchange with Second Parish in Hingham. Ken will be preaching at Second Parish, and Rev. Stephanie Shute Kelsch will be preaching here at Old Ship. Stephanie's sermon will be: "The Uses of 'Groundhog Day'". She writes: "This 25-year-old Bill Murray comedy has been used as everything from the basis of a recent musical to an instructional tool for religious education. How can a story focused on an old tradition continue to have such relevance? This sermon will explore the implication of the holiday's spiritual, secular, commercial, and comedic questions. At noon there will be a forum discussion in the Parish House Parlor sponsored by our Anti-Racism Group. All are invited to attend.

*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**

For my "Musing" this month, here is my recently published "Earth and Spirit" column from the Hingham Journal:

One year ends and another begins. And though various cultures and religions mark the boundary between one year and another at different times, using one year's end and a new year's beginning as a moment to reflect may be close to universal.

Naturally enough, many of our reflections have to do with our personal lives and habits; but at the year's turning our reflections might also turn to the state of the larger world in which we live. At this particular year's turning, when it comes to "earth and spirit" it might be easy enough to feel pessimistic, even hopeless. After all, unseasonable wildfires have raged in California; communities in Texas, Florida, Puerto Rico and other Caribbean islands continue to recover from unusually fierce hurricanes; and the current administration in Washington has put aside any concern whatsoever with climate change.

Well, the folksinger Gordon Bok wrote a song many years ago which affirmed in the refrain that "the world is always turning towards the morning." This is certainly true when it comes to the turning earth; we know that morning and light will always return. But the lyrics suggest that in our lives too, in spite of how things might sometimes appear, the world is also always turning toward the morning... even though it surely doesn't always seem so.

After all, when it comes to climate change, whatever our own government is doing or failing to do, the rest of the world is keeping to the Paris climate agreement, and in states and cities and towns in our own nation the work to ameliorate climate change continues and indeed grows. Will it all be enough? We have no way of knowing.

But I do know and notice that regardless of the changing weather and changing climate, the squirrels and chipmunks in our backyard, the birds in the trees, and the deer in the woods behind our home keep at their work in the world. They have no apparent forethought or fear of looming disaster; they are just doing what needs to be done to survive and even thrive.

We could do worse than to follow their example: Each of us and all of us together doing what we know must be done in our personal and political lives to help ensure the thriving of life on our earth home for the next generation and the next.

Which is good for the earth and good for our spirits. As we turn toward the morning.

I wish you all many blessings as, by the calendar most of us share, the year turns.

Peace and blessings,  
--Ken  
oldshipkrb@gmail.com

*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**

More than news, I want to gift you with a blessing, for this dark and cold winter time.

Beannacht: A Blessing for the New Year --by John O'Donohue

On the day when  
The weight deadens  
On your shoulders  
And you stumble,  
May the clay dance  
To balance you.

And when your eyes  
Freeze behind  
The grey window  
And the ghost of loss  
Gets in to you,  
May a flock of colours,  
Indigo, red, green,  
And azure blue,  
Come to awaken in you  
A meadow of delight.

When the canvas frays  
In the currach of thought  
And a stain of ocean  
Blackens beneath you,  
May there come across the waters  
A path of yellow moonlight  
To bring you safely home.

May the nourishment of the earth be yours,  
May the clarity of light be yours,  
May the fluency of the ocean be yours,  
May the protection of the ancestors be yours.

And so may a slow  
Wind work these words  
Of love around you,  
An invisible cloak  
To mind your life.

[Note: "Beannacht" is the Gaelic word for "blessing." A "currach" is a wooden boat used on the west coast of Ireland.]

Happy New Year!  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education  
beverlytricco@gmail.com

## Music Notes

A Happy New Year to you all! 2018 promises to be an exciting year for music at Old Ship. We have two Choral Vespers coming up on Feb. 10 and Apr. 7-the first one will be organized by the Youth Group! Other highlights will include Mostly Music Sunday on May 13 and continuing performances by the Children and Youth Choirs. Stay tuned for more details in the coming weeks.

The new year is a great time to consider singing in the choir! We'll be starting fresh with the music and I find it a wonderful activity to help get through the cold winter days. We rehearse from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday evenings (weather permitting) and at 9:15 a.m. on Sunday mornings. Please email me if you are interested in joining us or have any questions!

Chris Hossfeld  
Director of Music  
musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org

## Note from David Egan, student intern minister

Welcome to January and a new year! With this new year comes a sense of promise and hope for the future. We wonder what will come in this new year. We make resolutions to improve ourselves: "This is the year that I will be my best self!"

Yet as optimistic as we are for the future, we cannot shake the memories of the year that was 2017. A year when hope often seemed in short supply. We remember reckless tweeting, fake news, war mongering, American isolationism, immigration bans, natural disasters, assault accusations, income inequality, and overt racism. It truly was a year many of us would like to forget.

But yet, as Unitarian Universalists, we are simply not able to turn a blind eye. We know that there is much to be done to make our neighborhoods, our country, and our world a fairer place. For our faith calls us to action.

We are a faith that sees the inherent worth and dignity in everyone, not just those who are most like us. We are a faith that seeks out justice and equity, in a very unequal and unjust world. We are a faith that understands that we are all part of an interdependent web, and what affects one, affects us all.

As we enter into 2018, may we open our heart to the stranger, may we move out of our comfort zones to challenge our preconceptions, and may we learn to love those whom we disagree with. There is much work to be done. But here at Old Ship we will continue to do it together!

In the words of Rabbi Tarfon, written in the Talmud in the second century CE:

"Do not be daunted by the enormity of the world's grief.

Do justly, now.

Love mercy, now.

Walk humbly now.

You are not obligated to complete the work,  
but neither are you free to abandon it."

Blessings,  
Dave

## Notes from your Membership Coordinator

With the month of December behind us we say goodbye to Santa and all his reindeer, to Elf on a Shelf and Christmas music played in all our favorite stores. We now get to say hello to the beginning of a new year! Some of us may even set resolutions, and while I don't typically do this myself I think this year I just might.

I resolve to be more welcoming, more intentional and more present. These things will help me with what I love to do at Old Ship: meet new people and show them how wonderful our community is at all that we do. I ask that you help me in this: when you see someone you do not recognize, take the time to actually say hello and introduce yourself. Looking for a new spiritual home can be difficult and we can help make that transition something wonderful and worthwhile.

I would also encourage you to share with me any resolutions you have that you wish to share, anonymously or not, with our fellow Old Shippers. Please also consider attending the Community Dinner the Nurturing Community council and I will be planning on January 13th. If you'd like to be a host or a guest, please let me know: [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org). There will be a sign up sheet near the coffee in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, as well.

Thank you and the happiest of New Year's to you all!

Erin Alix  
Membership Coordinator  
[membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org)

### **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](http://www.oldshipchurch.org).

#### **Chinese Philosophy**

five sessions, Wed. Jan. 10- Feb. 7, 1:00 and 7:00 - led by Ken Read-Brown

Beneath layers of communism and capitalism, the teachings of Confucius, Mencius, Lao-Tzu, Chuang-Tzu, and other ancient Chinese philosophers are still woven into the fabric of China. There is wisdom for us as well in their writings. Our primary text will be *The Path: What Chinese Philosophers Can Teach Us About the Good Life* by Michael Puett and Christine Gross-Loh. There will also be handouts with readings from these ancient wisdom teachers. For more information and to sign up contact Ken at [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com) or cell: 781-635-2060.

#### **So You Want to Meditate, Sat., 3:00-5:00, 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](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com) or cell: 781-635-2060. No need to sign up in advance.



### **Nurturing Community**

#### **ALERT: Openings for Chefs !**

Even if you don't aspire to chef-dom, your cooking will get good reviews from the homeless guests at Father Bill's in Quincy. The meals we take there are warm and good, and it may warm them, too, that people they don't even know, care about them.



We are part of an interfaith group that serves a meal (entree and salad) 24 times a year. It is divided into six teams, so that each person cooks for 30 people four times a year.

If you might be that person, here are the details. We cook at home. If we can serve, we drive to Quincy; otherwise we send it in with someone else on the team. If we're going to be away on that day, we can make it ahead and freeze it at the Parish House.

Any team would be glad to hear from you because we all need substitutes at times, but there are two that are presently short-handed: (1) (formerly Jane Tremblay's) The 2nd Thursday in Feb., May, Aug., and Nov., and (2) Fan Leonard's group: The 2nd Thursday in Mar., Jun., Sep., Dec.

If you can be on either of these teams, or would like information on the first Monday teams, or are just generally curious, please call me at 781-749-2852. Thank you. Fan Leonard



### **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. At our upcoming meeting in December, our focus will be on Old Ship's "Educating Minds and Herts" ministry.

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.

### **Among Us**

We extend deep sympathy to Liz Flint and her family. Liz's father, John Lewis Sherrill, died in his home at Linden Ponds, Hingham, on December 2, 2017 at the age of 94.

Editor and writer for Guideposts for sixty-six years, he was a beloved author and speaker, specializing in inspirational true stories about people overcoming hardship through their faith - whether Protestant, Catholic, Orthodox or Jewish. Services were held at Hingham's St. John Episcopal Church, where he and his wife of seventy years have been members.

We extend deep sympathy to Sarah Corey and her family. Sarah's mother, Barbara Cunningham Corey, died on December 14 at her home in Petersham, MA; she was 90. Raised in Cohasset, Barbara was the inaugural coordinator of the North Quabbin Community Coalition, and since 1998 the annual Barbara Corey award as been given to someone who exhibits "her passion for life, values, and love for the citizens of our region." A service in celebration of her life will be held in the spring.

We offer deep sympathy to Abby and Mary Diamond-Kissiday and their families: Abby's sister, Leah Beth Diamond, died on December 18; she was 61 and lived in Lithia, FL. She had suffered with depression and anxiety for years, until she could not take it any longer. She loved her horse and enjoyed horseback riding, water and snow skiing. She is often pictured sitting by the campfire or riding her horse.

And Mary and Abby's 13-year-old niece, Tiffany Edi Osagie, the daughter of Mary's sister Marcia, died at Children's Hospital on the evening of January 1, at the end of an

18-month battle with cancer. We send healing prayers to all of Tiffany's family and friends who grieve this loss.

### **Carpool Caroling thanks**

Many thanks to our 2017 carpool caroling crew:

Ivy Butterworth, Frank Cheney, Eric Cornetta, Liza Cornetta, Keely Jordan, Peter Lochtefeld, Julia Londergan, Cynthia McKeon and David White, and Ken Read-Brown.

We made four stops to bring song and (we hope) holiday cheer to several Old Ship elders who don't often get out these days.

### **Dinner for the Homeless thanks**

We thank too many volunteers to name for helping to prepare and host the meal for the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore holiday dinner early in December. It was a beautiful event, and the meal was ample and well received. Thanks to all - with very special thanks this year to the leader of our effort, Judi Flaherty!

### **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](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) (781-925-9197)

Diane Elliott, [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com) (781-749-2248)

Elaine Gomez, [eh-gomez@comcast.net](mailto:eh-gomez@comcast.net) (781-740-1663)

Alicia Harkness, [PAJL7@verizon.net](mailto:PAJL7@verizon.net) (781-749-7825)

Fan Leonard, [toomuchfun33@hotmail.com](mailto:toomuchfun33@hotmail.com) (781-749-2852)

Joan Wilson, [joanielw@verizon.net](mailto:joanielw@verizon.net) (781-740-8840)

Beverly Tricco, [oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org) (781-749-1679)

Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org)). Like our Candles of Joy and Sorrow on Sunday mornings, this page helps us to knit the fabric of community.

## **Serving Others**

### **Social Justice Committee**

Feeding Others by collecting non-perishable foods and cash donations (used to buy fresh fruits, vegetables, and bread) for the Hingham Food Pantry) will be held on Sunday 1/7 during Fellowship Hour.

In November we collected 91 lbs of non-perishable goods and \$8.00 in cash donations. Special Social Justice Plate Collection for January  
This month's special collection will be on Sunday, January 7th, and it be used to support the Martin Luther King Day Interfaith Service Project to package meals for hungry families. \*\* More details here or elsewhere in the Newsletter?

### **Thank you to all Old Shippers who helped with the South Shore Friends of the Homeless Holiday Dinner!**

The Special Plate collection for the holiday party raised over \$1000 which fully covered the food costs for the dinner as well provided X as a donation to the SSFH for their shelter programs. And many Old Shippers helped with cooking, serving, providing rides to the event, and helping with children so parents could eat. Thank you everyone, it was a successful holiday event for the 100+ mothers, fathers, and children who were our guests the dinner and other activities provided by other local groups including the Hingham Mother's Club, and the Hull High School Jazz Band.

### **Interested in advocating for vulnerable populations?**

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network. Send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net).  
Interested in helping plan Old Ship's Social Justice activities for 2018?  
Everyone is invited to join us for our first Social Justice Council meeting of the new year, Saturday 1/20 at 9 am in the Parish House.

### **Martin Luther King, Jr. Event: "EndHunger New England"**

Each year the Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association sponsors an event of one sort or another. This year's event will offer an opportunity to help ensure that our hungry fellow citizens have enough to eat.

On Monday, January 15 at 9:00 a.m. - and for as long as you can stay (one hour, two hours, or more), all are invited to gather at St. John's Episcopal Church, 172 Main Street, Hingham, to package meals with the leadership of folks from "Ending Hunger, Enriching Lives."

We are also invited ahead of time or at the event to contribute the funds necessary to create the packages of food we'll be preparing. Donations for this specific event can be made online at [OutreachProgram.org](http://OutreachProgram.org) by clicking on Donate Now (blue box in the upper right-hand corner), then on Donate to a specific meal packaging event (the top scroll down option), and noting EndHungerNE event #124 under "Add special instructions to the seller" on the second page. Donations may be made by mail to 93 Whiffletree Ln, Marshfield MA 02050 (checks payable to The Outreach Program), noting the event in the memo section.



### **Green Sanctuary**

Old Ship's [350MA.org](http://350MA.org) group invites you to read this timely article by Bill McKibben:

#### **WINNING SLOWLY IS THE SAME AS LOSING**

If we don't win very quickly on climate change, then we will never win. That's the core truth about global warming. It's what makes it different from every other problem our political systems have faced. Click [here](#) to read the article.



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