



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)

### March 2018 Newsletter

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

## Worship

### Sunday, March 4, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "Learning to Let Go" - reflections spurred in part by his recent experience with the flu - but reflections also relevant to our lives whether in sickness or in health. What is most important in our lives, and what is less important than we might have thought?

At noon, Ken's Chinese Philosophy class will gather for their final session, to discuss readings from Chuang Tzu and reflect on all the other philosophers studied last month as well: Confucius, Mencius, and Lao Tzu. All are invited to join in this conversation.

At 2:00 Sunday afternoon, Ken Read-Brown will be among the respondents to a talk by Patrick Cage at Hingham Congregational Church (378 Main Street), who will be discussing climate change from the perspective of people of faith. Cage has served as a Climate Justice Intern with the Mass Conference United Church of Christ, holds a degree in Environmental Studies from Yale University, and has served as a fellow at the Carbon Institute of the Greenhouse Gas Management Institute. All are welcome to this free event.

### Sunday, March 11, 10:25am

#### Daylight Savings begins: remember to set your clocks forward!

This service for all ages will be a celebration of the power of community, in particular our Old Ship community. The theme will be "All for One, and One for All." Yes, full disclosure: related in part to our pledge drive, but only in part. All ages are invited to celebrate our



community with song, story, and who knows what lovely surprises!

Following the service, our Fellowship Hour will be our annual "Pie Day"! In addition to our usual coffee and tea, our choice of pies to nourish and enjoy. See Erin's article below for more details.

### **Sunday, March 18**

"Gloom and Doom... or Soon to Bloom?" will be Ken's sermon. He writes: "As spring approaches, my thoughts are turning to the question of whether we are more justified in a pessimistic or optimistic view of the world... or whether there is another alternative."



See details elsewhere in the newsletter about our exciting inaugural "Meeting House Forum" at 4:00 in our Old Ship Meeting House!

### **Sunday, March 25**

On the Christian calendar Palm Sunday marks the story of Jesus's triumphant entry into Jerusalem, leading in short order to his crucifixion. Ken's Palm Sunday sermon will be "A Faith to Live For." During Meeting House worship, our Sunday school children and their teachers will be celebrating a Passover Seder in the Parish House Fellowship Hall.

At noon, Old Ship's Anti-Racism Group will host its next monthly forum in the Parish House parlor.

### **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**

There are many ways to help and serve in this world of ours. No one of us can solve every world problem or heal all suffering. But each one of us *can* do our part, heeding the spirit of words from Edward Everett Hale printed in our hymnbook:

*"I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something. And because I cannot do everything I will not refuse to do the something that I can do."*

We may for example feel pessimistic about the possibility of legislating meaningful gun control, even in the wake of Parkland. Well, elsewhere in this month's newsletter Beverly Tricco offers her impassioned response and her commitment to do her "something" in relation to this. Following Beverly's example and spirit and, as she notes, the amazing example and spirit and leadership of our nation's youth, we cannot and must not give up the fight to make our schools and our streets safer. Just because thus far nothing seems to have changed does not mean that nothing ever will. So we must keep showing up, whether marching, signing petitions, or sending emails to elected officials to demand real action this time, not just vague promises and prayers. After all - just one example - is there any good reason for any ordinary citizen to possess an assault weapon? We may never be able to guarantee no more Parklands, no more Las Vegases, no more Pulse Nightclubs, no more Sandy Hooks. But if assault weapons were to become increasingly more difficult to procure, the carnage will be less. And maybe with inspiring youth leadership this time something *will* change.

The more general bottom spiritual line here is the invitation for each of us to pay attention to whatever form of suffering or injustice most breaks or touches our hearts - climate change, racism, poverty, hunger, immigration, one or another serious disease... - and then use whatever our talent, skill, or financial ability to contribute to ameliorating that suffering, ending that injustice, curing that illness.

In that spirit, words of Dorothy Day, also from our hymnbook:

*"People say, what is the sense of our small effort. They cannot see that we must lay one brick at a time, take one step at a time. A pebble cast into a pond causes ripples that spread in all directions. Each one of our thoughts, words, and deeds is like that. No one has a right to sit down and feel hopeless. There's too much work to do."*

Peace and blessings,  
--Ken  
oldshipkreb@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.*

P. S. For me, as most of you know, finding better treatments and eventually a cure for Alzheimer's Disease is one direction I've been putting some energy - quite literally - for the past several years. If this is an issue also close to your heart and you'd like to contribute to my fundraising through running the Boston Marathon, you can click [here](#) to get to my fundraising page, or you can send a check to me at the office (107 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043) made out to "Alzheimer's Association MA/NH". Thank you in advance!

## Director of Religious Education

I plan to attend this:



I plan to attend it as a private citizen in support of the Youth who are speaking out so fiercely and forcefully in Florida... My facebook page is papered with my heartbreak and anger about another school shooting with a weapon that (I believe) does not belong in civilian hands on civilian streets... I feel extremely strongly about this, and now that there appears to be a bit of traction among these Florida teens, I don't want them left high and dry with no adults behind them.

I have been a "marcher" and a "demonstrator" and a sitter in "sit-ins" since 1970 when I entered Stamford High School and girls were demanding the right to wear slacks to school instead of dresses and skirts...

I always tell my daughters, "I entered high school in 1970 in a mini skirt and stockings and exited in 1974 in torn-up jeans"... It was a time of radical change in more ways than dress code.

But it has been pointed out to me that I should not be using position; my power, such as it is, to "co-opt [ ] what is a glorious and apparently youth led movement." It was pointed out that our Youth should be making their own choices regarding how they feel about this issue, and their own decisions about how they want to move forward.  
I couldn't agree more.

I want to reassure you that I am not recruiting or inviting any young people to come with me... I have told the R.E. and Youth Committees about my plan for myself, and I'll let Old Ship members decide whether or not this is a U.U. thing... or an Old Ship thing... or an R.E. thing... or a Youth Group thing.

But it is very much a Beverly Tricco thing... and I will march, demonstrate, or sit, to show support for what I believe, as I have since 1970. I'll be on Boston Common on March 24, from noon to 5 p.m. If anyone, adult or Youth, wants to meet up with me, I will save you a spot next to me.

With determination and love...  
Beverly Tricco  
Director of Religious Education

### Music Notes

To the parents, children, and youth of Old Ship- the Children and Youth Choir is returning in for the next multigenerational service on March 11. We will rehearse during Religious Education classes this Sunday, March 4, in Fellowship Hall, and at 10:00 on March 11 in the Meeting House. If you would like to participate or have any questions, please get in touch!

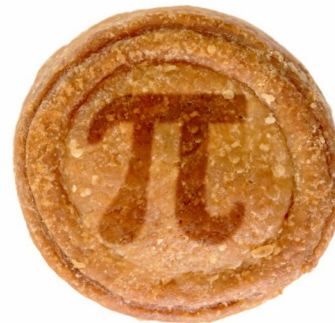
Chris Hossfeld  
Director of Music  
[musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org)



### Membership Notes

In just a few days the calendar will mark the official first day of Spring. Depending on the weather we're having as you read this, it may be easier or more difficult to picture this!

On March 11th, during Fellowship Hour, we will be celebrating our version of Pi(e) Day in honor of, you guessed it!, National Pi Day. But our special day will include actual pies! When you enter Fellowship Hall you'll find set up twelve tables, clearly marked with each month of the year. When you find the table that matches your birth month you can sit down for the sharing of good conversation and tasty pie with new and old friends. This is a wonderful way to get to know your fellow Old Shippers better. I'm looking for twelve people to help with the making of the pies and if you can help please let me know by emailing me at [membership@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:membership@oldshipchurch.org).



As you enjoy your favorite aspects of Spring, hopefully including pie, please remember our new friends at Old Ship. Remember that they are green, so to speak, and need help growing in our community. I also ask you to consider inviting someone you know to come and visit us - perhaps even on Pi(e) Day when we can impress with our wonderful selves, our beautiful spaces and our delicious pies!

Thank you for all you do,  
Erin Alix  
Membership Coordinator  
membership@oldshipchurch.org

**Note from David Egan, student intern minister**

"Every day, think as you wake up, today I am fortunate to be alive,  
I have a precious human life, I am not going to waste it.  
I am going to use all my energies to develop myself, to expand my heart out to others;  
to achieve enlightenment for the benefit of all beings."  
- Dalai Lama XIV

Like many of you, I am still reeling from yet another horrific school shooting. I am saddened by the loss of more children who were just going about their daily lives, trusting that the adults would keep them safe. I am angry by the tepid response from too many of our elected officials who claim that the fault lies solely with the shooter, not with our broken system. I am emboldened by the bold, brave words of the high school students who survived the attack in their school and are speaking truth to power. But more than anything, I feel paralyzed to the reality that these mass shootings are not unusual any more. Tragically, they have become the norm.

Yet even in our despair, we are not able to remain silent. For as Unitarian Universalists we are called to stand up to injustice, to work towards equity, to see the inherent worth and dignity in all. We have never believed that sending our thoughts and prayers is good enough in the face of such tragedy. As U.U.'s we stand in solidarity with bereaved students like Emma Gonzalez as she "calls BS" to lawmakers and gun advocates who refuse to limit even the most dangerous of weapons.

There is clearly much work to be done in our hurting world. Too many people have lost loved ones for us not to wake up and take note. Our faith calls us to act in kindness, generosity and love... and to protect others from harm. But in the meantime there is much to be grateful for on this beautiful day. For as the Dalai Lama reminds us, let us be grateful for our breath, for our love, for our very lives. For life is the most precious gift.

Many Blessings,  
Dave





## From the Board of Trustees

The buzz is getting louder... the hive is gearing up for the Old Ship Annual Pledge Campaign!

Like the busy bees that we are, this year's annual pledge campaign takes several routes to reach its goal - all during the month of March.

Each Old Ship member and friend will receive a letter in the next week, with information about how much honey we need to make, and how you can do your part to generate it.

**Hive parties!** Gather at a house party in the stimulating company of other Old Shippers, to share a meal and good conversation. Hosts are lining up to invite you to their home - all we need now are the bees! Concerned that there will be awkward talk about money? Fear not - there won't!! Just a lot of fun. If you love community dinners, you will love these gatherings. Please sign up soon during fellowship hour, or email Nina Price at [nina@steelepress.com](mailto:nina@steelepress.com) with the dates you would be available.

### **Hive Party Dates:**

*Friday, March 16 @ 7 pm (supper); Saturday, March 17 @ 10 am (brunch)*

*Saturday, March 24 @ 10 am (brunch); Saturday, March 24 @ 7 pm (supper)*

*Thursday, March 22 @ 4 pm (tea); Tuesday, March 27 @ 4 pm (tea)*

Hosts so far (groups of 8-16 people):

Janice McPhillips (tea), Laura Harbottle (24th brunch),  
Nina Price (24th supper), Jane Malme (at Linden Ponds),  
Ursula Stone

Saturday, April 7 - a grand musical event for all ages,  
featuring Bands of Bees, to celebrate a successful campaign.

Calls from the Board-bees... if we haven't heard from you by April 8. Much like a hive depends on each bee to do its part, Old Ship relies on every one, member and friend, to make a contribution of whatever amount works in your budget. The forager bees will be following up!



Old Ship thrives only if we generate enough to pay for our expenses - and every year we stretch to make the budget. We bees are not gluttons - but we do need nourishment, and we would like to build on the meaningful work that we do from day to day, year after year. Please - like responsible do-bees - make a pledge to support Old Ship this year and into the future.



## **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).

### **So You Want to Meditate, Sat., 3:00-5:00, March 24 (rescheduled)**

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. All are welcome!



### **Sacred Texts Meditation Group - The Tao Te Ching - newcomers welcome!**

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 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](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com). Our March gatherings will be on March 8 and March 22.

### **What If? with Gwen Morgan - Saturday workshop, March 10, 3:00 - 5:00 p.m.**

The What If? workbook is a comprehensive, easy-to-use guide to help get your affairs together in one convenient location. By filling out the workbook, you provide your loved ones with the necessary information they need should anything happen to you. The workshop will be led by the creator of the workbook, Gwen Morgan.

### **Spring Equinox Poetry Circle on Tuesday, March 20 at 7pm, Parlor**

Come join the ongoing poetry renaissance in America, Northeast branch, Old Ship affiliate. Bring and read a favorite poem: one that speaks to new beginnings or has inspired you, challenged you, comforted you, or even one that made you laugh out loud.



This evening is an opportunity to share and perhaps deepen our appreciation of poetry, and remind us of our connection with the natural cycles of life. Come with or without a poem. More info: Elizabeth Torrey (781-749-0543)

"A light exists in spring  
Not present on the year  
At any other period -  
When March is  
scarcely here"

Emily Dickinson



## Serving Others

### Social Justice News

Our Annual Food Drive to restock the shelves of the Hingham Food Pantry will take place on Sunday March 4th from Noon to 4pm. Come shop at Stop and Shop (Rt 3A, Hingham) and pick up an item or two to help the Food Pantry. Old Ship volunteers will greet you and give you a list of the sale items that the Food Pantry especially needs. We are hoping to match our collection of 1400 lbs of food and \$360 in cash for the Pantry in 2017.



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 3/25 during Fellowship Hour.

Special Plate Collection for March: This month's special collection will support the Mass Energy Coalition. More information in the Order of Service.

Next Social Justice Council meeting, Saturday 3/10 at 9am in the Parlor

On the Agenda planning for the effort to renew Old Ship's Green Sanctuary Status. 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](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net)) or Kate Philbin ([kate.philbin4@gmail.com](mailto:kate.philbin4@gmail.com)) if you have any questions.

### 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

### **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 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: March 6th at 7pm. Contact Connie Gorfinkle [connieg1233@gmail.com](mailto:connieg1233@gmail.com) or Turner Bledsoe for information [turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net](mailto:turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net)

### **Adopting the Stretch Building Code in Hingham**

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 Town Energy Committee will be holding hearings on it. The Board of Selectmen and Advisory Committee have already voted unanimously to support the change. Watch for hearings in late March which will feature an expert from the State Department of Energy Resources, and if you are a Hingham resident be sure to come out and vote for it at Town Meeting, April 23. Link to latest news from 350Ma.org nodes: [click here](#)

### **Anti-Racism Working Group**

The Antiracism Working Group meets monthly (4th Sunday, noon in parlor) and is led by a multi-racial committee to help guide discussion around deepening the understanding of internal bias and systemic race-based oppression. Next meeting: Sunday 3/25. Contact Pam Harty for more information [pamharty@comcast.net](mailto:pamharty@comcast.net)

Look for announcements about their Town-wide event addressing racism on Sunday 3/18 4pm in our Meeting House.

### **Coffeehouse off the Square**

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

March 17: Katie McD's Cross County Band and Martin Butler

After their memorable past performances we are again presenting Katie McD's group with bodhran player Martin Butler. Galway born and raised, Katie is an accomplished singer-songwriter-guitarist, with many CDs as well as songs in films. Tipperary's Martin Butler has been heard at Hingham's Snug and as part of the Celtic group Cunla Dear. Katie and Martin are joined by band mates Danielle Kleeman on flute, piano and vocals, and Marie Kettenring on Irish fiddle. It is sure to be a memorable evening that will have you stomping out the beat.  
[www.katiemcd.com](http://www.katiemcd.com)

### **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.

### **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:

- 1) Rides: Would you be able to give an Old Ship parishioner a ride to church, either regularly or from time to time?
- 2) 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?
- 3) 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?

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)  
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Beverly Tricco, [oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org) (781-749-1679)  
Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkreb@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org)). Like our Candles of Joy and Sorrow on Sunday mornings, this page helps us to knit the fabric of community.

The Meeting House Forum presents:

# BLACK LIVES MATTER TO EVERYONE

Featuring Guest Speakers:



**Rahsaan Hall**

Director, Racial Justice Program  
ACLU Massachusetts



**Martin Henson**

Black Lives Matter  
Boston

Please join us at a Meeting House Forum in the Old Ship Meeting House, a community gathering place since 1681.

Together we will explore racism, white responsibility for change, and the facts underlying the Black Lives Matter movement. How can our communities engage in meaningful work to repair internal and systemic racism?

Rev. Ken Read-Brown will moderate the conversation, with time for questions from the audience.

After the program, conversation continues over soup across the street in the Parish House.

Frugal Books of Roxbury will offer a selection of topical books for purchase.

The program is offered for free, with donations to cover the costs, given as able.

For more information, visit [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

## SUNDAY, MARCH 18 @ 4:00 PM

### OLD SHIP MEETING HOUSE

90 MAIN STREET, HINGHAM, MA

Sponsored by:



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

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