



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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May 2018 Newsletter

**June newsletter deadline:
Monday, May 25**

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

Worship

Sunday, May 6, 10:25am

"The Gift of Impermanence" will be Ken's sermon as we enter the month during which Buddhists celebrate the birth and enlightenment of the Buddha. Gift of impermanence? Yes, gift.

Sunday, May 13, 10:25am

For many years we have celebrated Mother's Day with "Mostly Music Sunday"! Music from Chris and the choir this year will include parts of the Bach Cantata No. 140.

We will also be dedicating our new piano, a very generous gift from Shelley Willson, the daughter of Tom and Diane Willson. As most of you recall, Shelley died a little over a year ago, and she had made it clear that she wanted to give her beautiful piano to Old Ship. It has graced our service since last fall, enhancing and enriching our worship every week, as it now will for years to come.

Ken's message will be "From Hate to Love," drawing on the inspiring story of the spiritual transformation of a young white supremacist, a transformation made possible in part because of the people - his mother and father among them - who never gave up on him.

Sunday, May 20, 10:25am

For the past several years we have been holding this service celebrating life learning for all ages in our Fellowship Hall, partly to facilitate moving on efficiently to our Annual Meeting at noon. We will celebrate "Always Learning" with plenty of singing, maybe even some dancing, and a few inspiring words too.

Old Ship's 2018 annual meeting will follow the worship service.

Sunday, May 27, 10:25am

"'We' Includes Muslims" will be Ken's sermon. On Memorial Day we remember those who gave their lives in war, and we also reflect on how we might create a world with no more wars. From conflicts in the Middle East to discrimination against Muslims in our own nation, it would seem that these days the road to more peace needs to be paved among other things with better understanding of the realities of Islam, rather than on prejudice and stereotype.

At noon in the parlor, all are invited to enjoy video of ordinary folks of all ages and backgrounds reading their favorite poems and sharing their thoughts as to why their poem has moved them. The video is based on the "Favorite Poet Project of former U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky.

Most Sunday mornings...



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

Childcare available before Sunday services: If you plan to attend any early morning gathering or committee meeting and need childcare in order to do so, please call our office by Wednesday before the Sunday, and we will do our best to arrange childcare in the nursery for you.

Musing

from the minister's desk

Since preaching on the theme "Fifty Years Ago" a couple of weeks ago, I've continued to reflect not only on the events of 1968 themselves, but on the continued resonance of those events - political, social, cultural, personal.

As some of you heard, in that sermon I recalled that 1968 included not only the tragedies of the assassinations of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Robert F. Kennedy, and not only the ongoing disaster of the Vietnam War and the tumultuous politics of the presidential campaign that year. 1968 also included a variety of cultural landmarks, some more significant than others. There were new albums by the Beatles and Rolling Stones; there were films such as "2001 a Space Odyssey"; and there were new television series including "60 Minutes," "Mr. Rogers Neighborhood," and "Laugh-In." And to



conclude that year we witnessed a manned Apollo mission circle the moon, and we began to absorb into the general consciousness those photos of Earth from the distance of the moon. Of course even all this is hardly everything that took place in 1968, particularly since most of the rest of the world is ignored in this short list!

Well, there's no predicting what the condition of the world will be in another fifty years. Some of you who are reading this will still be around then; it is highly unlikely that I will be. But we all likely have our fears as to what may come all these years hence - whether of ever more disastrous climate change or nuclear holocaust; and we also likely have our hopes - for a healthier planet and a more just and peaceful world in every way.

This said, we would do well to remember that nothing happens magically or is foreordained. Instead, the condition of the world fifty years hence will hinge on the collective intentions and actions of every person on the planet.

As for me, in this shared work of the world I am inspired in whatever small ways I can contribute by the lives of great souls like Dr. King; I am sustained by shared love of family and friends; and I am nourished by ancient wellsprings of the spiritual wisdom of humanity as expressed in the scriptures and poetry of the ages.

Here, for example, is a reminder from Emerson's essay "Self Reliance" that I first read not quite fifty years ago: "Accept the place the divine providence has found for you, the society of your contemporaries, the connection of events." Which is in turn an echo of words from the ancient Hindu Bhagavad Gita, which I also first read all those years ago: "It is better to strive in one's own dharma than to succeed in the dharma of another." Or, as I have taken to putting it more colloquially, "Do what you can where you are with what you've got."

Together, then, on to the next fifty years, with whatever inspires, sustains, and nourishes us for this journey of life we share.

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

Notes from your Membership Coordinator

Each May I think about how grateful I am that the weather has begun to warm up and that the sun hangs in the sky a little longer each day. This May, in addition to that, I will turn my attention to other things: I will spend my time in the community, telling people about us. I will tell them the wonderful things we do at Old Ship and how they can be a part of it. I will be giving out membership packets to local businesses and establishments. Then it's up to us to welcome those brave and curious enough to visit; that's when we show our gratitude by being warm and welcoming.



I will also be hosting another Birthday Day on May 6 in the Fellowship Hall after the service. I hope you'll join me to celebrate each and every one of us! If you are able to make a cake please let me know by emailing me at membership@oldshipchurch.org.

Lastly, please remember that we have quite a few new faces among us and that they all need your attention. Please consider seeking out those new faces as you stand in line to get your coffee, before you strike up a conversation with an old friend or as just you look around the Fellowship Hall. We're all in this together.

Kindly,
Erin
Membership Coordinator

Director of Religious Education

Dear Old Ship,

A small but intrepid fraction of the Youth group went on a mini-trip to New York City at the start of this past vacation week. There were five Youth, and Maureen Butler and I chaperoned. We rented a van and parked on East 9th Street. We slept on the floor of the sanctuary of a Lutheran church. We stayed overnight in Manhattan for \$30 per person, per night. We helped (a bit) with their "Feeding the Homeless" mission.



For four of the five Youth, this was their first time going to NYC, so we really packed in as much as we could, despite tight budgets and persistent, sometimes torrential rain. We walked and walked and walked... We bought overpriced umbrellas... We found a really good bagel place next to Tompkins Square Park... We had New York pizza... We saw Times Square... We saw Rockefeller Center...

The next afternoon we saw Washington Square Park... Wall Street... Ground Zero... the Smithsonian National Museum of the Native American... and the Staten Island Ferry, with views of the Statue of Liberty...

We did a lot with very little.

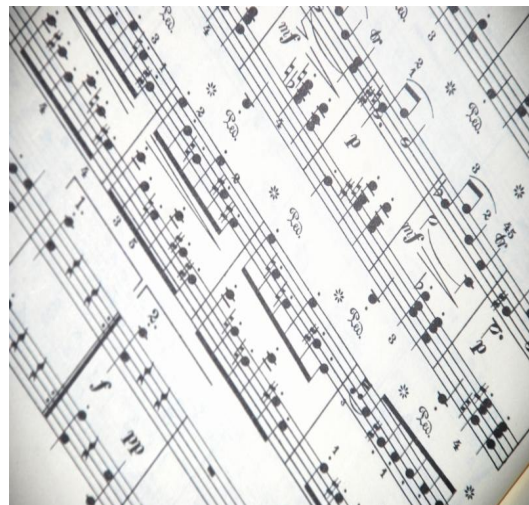
The church we stayed at also does a lot with very little. Trinity Lower East Side Lutheran Church has 35 faithful come to church on any given Sunday. And they cook and serve lunch to 200 hungry and homeless, Monday through Friday. I was amazed and fascinated as Pastor Ann detailed the dozens of ways they keep the doors open and the lights on, all the while doing God's work.

Both facets of this trip have been a reminder to me to keep my goals and expectations lofty, and my demands for comfort and perfection low.

Bold, brave, bright blessings,
Beverly Tricco
Director of Religious Education

Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director
Music Sunday is coming up on May 13! The 10:25 service will be mostly music. The choir will sing parts of the Bach Cantata No. 140, "Wachet auf" with violin and clarinet accompaniment. Our soloists will also feature during the service, performing solos and duets. Be sure not to miss a Sunday of glorious music!

Peace,
Chris Hossfeld
musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org



From your student intern minister, David Eagan.

This past week I was away at a minister's retreat on the Cape. It was wonderful to get away from the hectic pace of life and spend some time connecting, relaxing and worshiping with some really special people. It left me with an unusual (for me!) sense of peace and calm.

One early morning, before anyone was awake, I put on my raincoat and walked down to the beach. It was lightly drizzling, warm and lush. As I made my way to the water, I came upon a dead seagull that lay on the sand with its head turned unnaturally. I was at first startled and then saddened by the fate of this bird. I continued down the shore searching for shells and stones. I gazed down the beach a ways and saw three other seagulls searching the sand for their breakfast. I thought, "Well... 3 alive, 1 dead. At least life seems to be winning this morning."

I continued down the shore a ways and came upon an overturned horseshoe crab. I immediately thought "What a treasure... my daughters would love a souvenir." But as bent down to pick it up, a wave washed over the horseshoe crab and two of its legs moved. Now perhaps, those legs moved because of the wave. Or maybe it wasn't actually quite dead. So I turned the crab right side up, and went on my way.

I found many shells that morning. Plenty of things to bring home to give to my family. When I had walked as far as I could go along this shore, I headed back. I tried to remember the spot where that horseshoe crab was, but I couldn't. But I would have encountered it eventually, since I was retracing my steps. But I never did. Did it crawl back into the ocean? Did the tide wash its body back home? I will never know. But I thought, "that is how it should be."

Many Blessings,
Dave

May Breakfast and Plant Sale is Saturday, May 5.



Many thanks to those of you who have volunteered to help at the May Breakfast on Saturday, May 5. We are all grateful. Please look below to make certain that your name is listed for the correct shift. We are all looking forward to a wonderful day!

If you are working in the kitchen, please bring a hat that you can wear. This is a health regulation that we need to follow.

Friday, May 4: Setting up the dining room

Charlotte Champagne, Ivy Butterworth, Diane Elliot, Gail Slater, and Karen Johnson

Saturday, May 5:

First shift (7:15-9:15)--kitchen

Eva Marx, Davalene Cooper, Robert Jaramillo, Ursula Stone, Dana Kintigh, Michael Mercurio, Liz Flint, Rick Butterworth, Dave Petrie, Jill McElroy, Frank Cheney

First shift (7:15-9:15)--wait staff

Pat Bianco, Ken Read-Brown, Paul Stone, Anne McGuire, Liza Cornetta, Mary Murphy, David Murphy, Jeff Lee, Matt Carson, Belinda Arams

Second shift (9:00-11:00)--kitchen

Mary Thomas, Lisa Sawyer, Ursula Stone, Jane Malme, Dennis Hogan, David O'Malley, Claire Petrie, Peter Lochtefeld, Chris Sullivan, Shan Mohammed, Eric Cornetta

Second shift (9:00-11:00)--wait staff

Bridget Baynes, Kate Philbin, Rob Baynes, Auri Fitz-Marquez, Beth Lilly, William Clark, Deb Bayer, Susan Carrillo, Piper Carrillo

Plant table helpers: (The plant table will be open until 12:00)

Edith Larson, Cal Larson, Jean Imlach, Brenda Black, Santjes Oomen, Corey Fitz-Marquez, Gail Nathanson, Janice McPhillips, Carol Valentine, Shirley Rydell

Clean-up Crew: Start around 11:00-11:30

Ding Wilding-Smith, Stan Benulis, Chris Sullivan, Marilyn Scheffler, Mike Scheffler, David O'Malley, Shan Mohammed and anybody else who would like to help out!

Financial folks:

Bryan Hurley, Mike Dwyer, John Sneath, Nina Price

Educating Hearts and Minds: Life Learning Programs

Spring Poetry - has been deferred to sometime next year, with apologies to the many folks who enjoy and participate in our annual poetry excursions.

Other ongoing groups and gatherings....

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

Help us plan next year's Life Learning!

If you have an idea for a class or workshop or forum, if you would like to lead a class or workshop or forum, or if you would like to suggest another Old Shipper to lead something.... please let a member of the Life Learning Committee know. Thank you!

Life Learning Committee:

Ralph Brown (ralph.e.brown@gmail.com), Rich Elliott (richelliott56@gmail.com), Claire Petrie (cdpetrie@aol.com), Elizabeth Torrey (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com), Ken Read-Brown (oldshipkrb@gmail.com)

Nurturing Community

A note about our organ

As you know, we recently celebrated the life of Tom Potter at an Old Ship memorial service. Among Tom's various contributions to the life of our congregation, he had been the chair of the Organ Committee that led to the acquisition of our current Allen Organ. Later this month we will celebrate the life of another of the members of that committee, a dear friend of Tom's, Bernie Gregoire. Additional members of that committee were Cindy Camino, Peter Hardy, Nancy Orton, Betty Potter, and me (ex officio, as minister).

Tom would have loved the musical display of our organ at his service through pieces from the works of Bach, Bruch, Elgar, Franck, Mendelssohn that he had some time ago chosen for his own service. He would have particularly appreciated all this, since our organ is no "off the shelf" digital Allen Organ. It is a custom instrument, designed in close coordination with

Tom and the committee, and therefore a splendid living musical legacy for Tom and every member of that committee.

True enough, not everyone loves organ music, but if you are among those who can't quite get into the sound of the organ, I invite you to at least make an effort to listen for the complex beauty of this remarkable instrument, remembering as you do the care and expertise with which it was created.

--Ken Read-Brown

Board of Trustees

Annual Pledge Campaign

As we prepare the budget for next year, which begins on July 1, the Board would like to thank all of you who have made pledges so far. We continue to reach out to those who have not pledged yet, and hope that everyone who feels a part of the Old Ship community will be able to contribute something to support the ongoing work of our church. Your pledges need to cover three-quarters of our expenses. We are on target to reach that goal IF everyone makes a pledge., so please let us hear from you!

Bryan Hurley, Treasurer

Annual Meeting

Mark your calendars for Old Ship's annual "State of the Union" meeting, after church on Sunday, May 20. A warrant and budget will be mailed in early May, and at the meeting you will hear reports from the Minister, DRE, Music Director, President, and Social Outreach, and a report on where we stand with the Parish House sale. (There is currently nothing concrete on the sale to report...) We will vote on the budget for next year, and on any issues that come up for discussion. Annual Meeting is an informative, celebratory gathering where we come together to affirm the organization of our church. Please join in this year!

Note from the Office

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

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.

Social Justice News

Next SJC meeting, Saturday 5/12 at 9am in the Parlor

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

Special Social Justice Plate Collection for May

Following up from our Climate Justice presentation on 4/29, we will be collecting for the Mass Energy Coalition, our statewide group working to help MA become more sustainable this month.

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). The Hingham Food Pantry is closed for most of May, so our next (and final) collection for this church year will be on Sunday 6/3 during Fellowship Hour. Remember, if you are unable to

bring non-perishable foods to donate, cash donations are always welcome.

Interested in advocating for vulnerable populations?

The Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network sends out alerts when it would be particularly helpful to contact our local and national elected officials, especially during budget negotiations. We also send out notices of advocacy days, state or national, and other opportunities to advocate for those populations particularly at risk in our current times. In the past year, we sent out about 25 such alerts, so if you would like to be on this list, we do not overwhelm you with emails. Our focus is on when we can take actions to advocate for vulnerable populations. How do you get on the list? Just send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at: davalenecooper@verizon.net. Currently, we have about 35 Old Shippers on the list. 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 recertify Old Ship's UU Green Sanctuary accreditation and help our congregation perform a self-assessment, write our plan, and complete projects across: Environmental Justice / Climate Justice, Worship and Celebration, Religious Education, and Sustainable Living.

The 350MA.org members lead twice monthly meetings on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall to explore and plan for actions to challenge climate change in our area. Next meeting May 1st at 7pm.

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

Thank You! Hingham's Town Meeting passed the Stretch Building Code article at Town Meeting moving the Town one step closer to becoming a Green Community (which brings grant monies to the town for energy conservation uses)

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

May 19th (final Coffeehouse for the season):

Andy & Judy

Andy and Judy Daigle have blossomed as a duo with a broad repertory and are well worth hearing. Judy's glorious voice alone is worth an evening's attention and Andy's guitar playing and rich complementary voice complete the duo. As one writer has said "Andy and Judy's music is outstanding and exceptionally well crafted. They write well. They compose well, and they perform together spectacularly with captivating harmonies..

<http://www.andyjudysing.com/>

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

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