



First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

107 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

October 2017 Newsletter

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Worship

Sunday, October 1, 10:25am

Our new intern student minister, Dave Egan, will be preaching this Sunday (Ken will be away to officiate at his nephew's wedding). Dave's sermon will be "Through the Valley," grounded in his recent experience as a student chaplain in a hospital setting.



Fellowship Hour October 1: Last names beginning with A-H are asked to bring snacks.

Sunday, October 8

"This Amazing Life!" will be Ken's message during this service for all ages. It is all too easy to neglect to notice just how remarkably and interdependently beautiful this world is... in spite of the trials and tribulations that are also part of life.

Chris's music, and the contributions of Beverly Tricco, Dave Egan, and others, all promise to contribute to a service that will have meaning whether you are 9 or 99.

At 1:00 we are invited to bring our companion animals - furry or otherwise - back to the Meeting House for our annual "Blessing of the Animals" led by Ken Read-Brown.

Sunday, October 15, 10:25am

"How Did This Happen?" will be Ken's sermon. Our congregation was gathered by early New England Puritans; yet now, without having "stolen" the Old Meeting House, we are Unitarian Universalist. How did this happen? And why does it matter?

At noon in the Parish House parlor Ken and other Old Ship leaders will host a "New UU" gathering. All newcomers are invited to learn more about Old Ship and Unitarian Universalism. Old timers are invited too - for a little refresher course... and to meet the new folks.

This service will also serve as an introduction to the "Building Your Own Theology" class to be offered by Diane Elliott and Ken Read-Brown beginning on Wednesday, October 18 (see details elsewhere in the newsletter).

Sunday, October 22, 10:25am

"Living Beautifully?" will be Ken's sermon, inspired by the book by the American Buddhist teacher Pema Chodron: Living Beautifully with uncertainty and change, which is being read in the twice monthly Sunday morning Bodhisattva Study Group (to which newcomers are always invited!). Can opening our eyes and ears and hearts to what Zorba called "the full catastrophe" of life actually help us to "live beautifully"?

Fellowship Hour will feature "Come Meet Me": an opportunity to get to know the folks and groups who make things happen around Old Ship. Y'all come!

Sunday, October 29, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "Not For Sissies" - reflections on aging, and the need for us to have more open and honest conversations with loved ones and one another as we age, and in particular if and when we face difficult diagnoses such as dementia at whatever age.

During the service we will have the opportunity to name dear ones who have died during the past year, or in the more distant past. We are also invited to bring to the service, if we like, a photo

or other memento to contribute to our "altar of remembrance" (everything will of course be returned following the service.

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

I write on Sunday afternoon following our celebration of thirty years of shared ministry. In my sermon and during the Fellowship Hour celebration I expressed my enduring gratitude for your support during all these years, most especially in terms of your devotion and dedication to Old Ship and the work we do together to give life to our covenant and our Unitarian Universalist principles.

And now I must add to this my gratitude for your generously kind words and spirit today and in the "memory book" to which many of you contributed. Thank you! Thank you!

Thirty years ago as I began my ministry among you I certainly would never have imagined that I'd still be with you thirty years later. When we are young we don't usually think that far into the future, except perhaps in the most general terms.

Yet here we are, as year added to year. Some have left us along the way, and others joined to share in the journey, but together we have held steady in our purpose to awaken one another to the beauty of life, to awaken one another to a deeper compassion for the suffering in life, and so to be moved to more enduring kindness and deeper love. With the hope that the prayers of our hearts may ever more fully become the work of our hands.

Here is how I put some of this in my sermon (now posted to our web site):

"What I'm describing today is at the heart of how I see and experience my ministry among you. For in all that I have done and continue to do, I am intending to awaken each and all of us (me too!) to who we most truly are - not essentially separate bags of bones, but part and parcel of one another and the larger life we share with all life. And I am convinced that the more we awaken in this way to who we truly are, the more compassionate, kind, and loving we will be - in a world much in need of our compassion, kindness, and love.

"Further, I can only hope, and I expect it is a hope you share, that what we do together in this spirit, from shared meditation and prayer and reflection and exploration here in our Meeting House, to conversation about things that matter wherever it takes place, to our caring for each other, to our acting together for peace and justice.... I can only hope, because we can rarely know with a certainty... that what we do together really does and might continue to make a difference in this hurting, yet oh so beautiful world."

Now our journey continues. Thanks once again to you all - thank you for being on board for this journey we share.

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. You may use 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 of course be reached via email, oldshipkrb@gmail.com. --Ken

Director of Religious Education

Dear Old Ship,

This is my tenth year as your DRE...

Before I came to Old Ship I served another congregation for 13 years...

That makes 23 years on the job...

Twenty three years of Sundays, stories-for-all-ages, joys and concerns, curricula, kids, babies, parents, nursery care-givers, toys, pancakes, baked-potatoes, calendars, newsletters, crayons, markers, duct-tape, trips to New Orleans, Washington DC, Appalachia, Florida, planes, trains and mini-vans, laughing, crying, sharing earnestly, listening deeply... Not to mention tree-stumps in the playground, and kittens, and... and... and...

And Ken... Ken's been doing this for 30 years... He's got plenty of his own details of tasks that he's done over and over, that he could share...

The long and short of it is, you've got some real long-timers in charge of the store here, and we could each do our job on one foot if we wanted to.

But you know what's cool? We don't want to.

We were talking this week about not getting panicky... and having a measure of poise and confidence that comes with years and years of experience. That is a good thing.

At the same time, neither one of us is a "phone it in" kind of person; we treat each Sunday as though it is truly important... as though "what we do" truly matters. That is also a good thing.

All this is to tell you that this year is bringing us new things to do and new ways to collaborate. There has been a call for more multi-generational worship and we are answering it.

And I want you all to know that when your program staff is brainstorming about new and novel approaches to worshipping together, we are having a darned good time.

Pretty good for a couple of old war horses.

When you add Chris to the mix, and now Dave, well, who knows what we're going to come up with?

Looking forward to surprising you...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

beverlytrmail@gmail.com

...

Notes from your Membership Coordinator

First and foremost, I would like to say a very heartfelt thank you to everyone who participated in last month's Birthday Day, with a special thank you to those who made the beautiful and delicious cakes that adorned all twelve of the tables. I could not have done it without you! Look forward to Cereal Day, coming to Fellowship Hour in the not-too-distant future!

It's pumpkin season! If you like pumpkin-flavored anything, now is your time: Pumpkin coffee, pumpkin muffins and pancakes; pumpkin granola, pumpkin bagels, pumpkin butter (yes, that's a

thing!), pumpkin biscotti, pumpkin yogurt, pumpkin cookies, pumpkin ice cream, pumpkin cheesecake...and more! It's a pumpkin extravaganza!

Perhaps pumpkin isn't your thing--and that's okay! Here are a few things planned for October that don't center around pumpkin:

October 8th, 1:00 pm, in front of the Meeting House, we will have our annual Blessing of the Animals by Ken Read-Brown. Bring your furry, reptile, feathered, fluffy or otherwise, friends to be blessed by Ken on what will, hopefully, be a warmer day than last year!

October 14th, We will have Vespers (see article below) followed by a Community Dinner. Come listen to live music with Chris Hossfeld and, afterwards, enjoy a delicious meal with your fellow congregants in the Fellowship Hall. To sign up, please contact me: membership@oldshipchurch.org.

October 15th, 12:00 pm in the Parlor, is New UU Sunday. Ken and other Old Ship leaders will speak about Unitarian Universalism and Old Ship to our newest members and visitors and answer their questions, but all are encouraged to join in the conversation.

I look forward to an October filled with beautiful leaves, and a pumpkin or two, with you!

-Erin
Membership Coordinator
Old Ship Church
membership@oldshipchurch.org



Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Vespers with the Old Ship Choir - Nature and Beauty
Saturday, October 14, 5:30 p.m.

Free admission-All are welcome!
Community Dinner to Follow (see Erin's article above)

The Old Ship Choir will hold a Choral Vespers service in the Old Ship Meeting House, reflecting on nature and beauty. A community dinner will follow the service in the Parish House. A gently lit Meeting House, music by Fauré, Mendelssohn, and Rutter, poetry by John Ashbery, and plenty of silence for quiet contemplation - all contribute to a peaceful pause in the midst of our busy lives. Admission is free and all are warmly invited!

Chris
Chris Hossfeld
musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org



Notes from your Student Intern Minister

As we wake to the crisp cool morning air, see the first warm colors of fall, and notice the days grow just a little bit shorter, we are reminded that summer is truly over. There is no denying it. Those lazy, carefree days of strolling the warm beach are officially over. We now find ourselves

back into our regular work and school schedules; as some might say, back to the real world.

Every fall, amid the apple picking, flannel shirts, and cider doughnuts, I feel the instinctual urge to prepare for the coming winter. Do the kids have proper winter coats, hats and boots? Will we have enough firewood to heat the house in case the power goes out? Will we have enough food to eat? Deep down inside I feel a need to get ready, get ready for the hard days ahead. This fall however, this feeling of unease is somehow more intense. For, as I imagine many of us are, I worry about the days to come.

I wonder how will our communities recover and respond to what seem like constant, crippling hurricanes, floods and earthquakes? Will we as a human race finally take responsibility for our centuries of unchecked industrialism and develop a real plan to ease the devastation of our quickly changing climate?

Will our senators and representatives have the empathy to vote for the health of their constituents over the politics of the moment? Or will those who cannot afford it, be forced again to cancel their annual check-up, skip another insulin treatment, or forgo another surgery?

Will our world leaders be able to set aside their anger for a moment, look to their better angels, and come back to the negotiating table before the unthinkable actually happens? Or will the impulsive actions of shortsighted men, yet again, cause more pain and suffering?

This fall, there is much to worry about in the days to come. Some days I am not sure if we are ready for the changes on the horizon. I often wonder if humanity has enough firewood and warm coats to make it through the coming winter. But on other days, I look around at the warm faces of the folks here at Old Ship, and I am reminded that whatever comes, we will be doing it together.

Blessed Be,
Dave

Ken's 30 Anniversary Celebration

On Sunday, September 24, the Meeting House and Fellowship Hour were bursting with people, music and joy, celebrating 30 years of ministry with Ken Read-Brown. Ken's theme of "[This Journey We Share](#)" was woven throughout the day. Ken's sermon and the congratulatory remarks by Fan Leonard (who served on the search committee who brought him to us) reminded us of the people and events who helped shape the congregation that we are now. And Ken placed us firmly along the path of the 400-year-old journey that has been First Parish, with the remarkable fact that his great-great-great etc. grandfather was Peter Hobart, the very first minister in 1635.

But mostly, we celebrated the wonderful spirit of Ken himself. From the Prelude of Cole Porter's "Easy to Love," through the Board's serenade of "It Had to Be You" (with lyrics doctored by Pat Bianco), we showed him how much we appreciate his kindness, quiet strength, and insight. He even had an anthem written especially for him - words by Paul Stone set to music by Nigel Harvey - that you can hear on the [Old Ship's YouTube channel](#), and see photos of the festivities on the [Old Ship website](#). Pat Bianco created a delightful fellowship hour, with cake and pearls, representing Ken's Pearls of Wisdom that are displayed on a wisdom tree for all to see. And many parishioners wrote words of appreciation and sent pictures that are gathered in a book for Ken. You may still add your thoughts to the book by emailing them to [Pat Bianco](#) or the office. Plus, we are offering for free the book of Ken's sermons from his first fifteen years, entitled "Waking Up to Life... Fifteen Years of Preaching in the Old Ship Meeting House."

The celebration continues, each and every day that we are together on this journey. With love and thanks to Ken for showing us the way!

Nurturing Community

Who is NCC you ask? We are the Nurturing Community Council. We are currently a committee of eight people charged with offering all a warm welcome, loving support, and a path to deep engagement with the Old Ship community. Nurturing Community is one of the Five Ministries at Old Ship Church, and the first you will be reading about in this year's newsletters. We are the ministry that supports Members and Friends, Greeters and Ushers, Fellowship Hour Hosts, Community Events, Communication and Pastoral Care. You may just know us as the people who are always looking for ushers and people to serve coffee.

Our main purpose is to find ways to connect all of us together as one community.

On any given Sunday you may have participated in or benefited from one of the many functions our committees support. Were you greeted by Membership Coordinator Erin Alix on your way into service? Were you greeted by a friendly face who gave you an Order of Service? Did you light or listen to joys & concerns? Did you help support Old Ship by making an offering? When you came across the street, did you have a cup of coffee or tea? Did you pick up a copy of the directory on the Welcome Table or perhaps ask a question about membership? Did you snack upon a bagel or piece of coffee cake? Did you sign the membership book? Did you find your name tag?Were you greeted with smiles, hellos and friendly conversation?

And that's just on Sunday mornings. Each week there are approximately 15 volunteers and 5 staff members who actively support the work in this ministry. Minister Ken Read-Brown, Membership Coordinator Erin Alix, Office Administrator Julianna Dunn and Sextons Mark and Crissi Curran work tirelessly week in and week out to uphold the work that we as a community have valued. That's 20 people working for the 209 active, voting members of our parish.

This year we are very excited about the specific goals we will be working on in each of our committees. First and foremost, we want to get to know everyone better. There are 200 of us at Old Ship and we challenge each and every one of you to get to know one another. We're going to help you by introducing new members in each monthly newsletter and updating the directory more often. We're going to list the ushers and hosts and greeters in the order of service so you can get to know them better. We are going to reinvent/redesign our nametags so that we call greet each other by name. We are creating a "congregation at a glance" flyer so new members and visitors can see what we are all about. Lastly, and most importantly, we are dedicated to having fun at all Old Ship services, meetings and events!

Would you like to be a part of this? We would love to have you! We are always looking for new members to join NCC. Your experience and insight may be just what we need. Is committee work not for you? Don't worry. There are 100 other things you can do to help support Old Ship. When we become members of Old Ship we become members of a community. With that comes the expectation of commitment to our community. We can't have 20 people always doing the work to support the 200. We need you to help.

There are 42 Sundays in this year's church calendar. That is 42 Sundays that we need 2 ushers each. As an usher you are performing a vital role in our service. There could be times when you may be the only non-staff member to greet a visitor or friend. By carrying the microphone during Joys & Concerns and helping with the collection, you are supporting the spiritual and financial needs of our community. Plus, it is an easy and fun way to meet new people.

Each Sunday we need Fellowship Hour Hosts. And, we've made it pretty simple. Most weeks the food is provided on a potluck method based on last names. Hosts are not obligated to provide food. Hosts are definitely needed to serve the food, pour the coffee and clean up. Of these 42 Sundays, we only serve food during Fellowship Hour on perhaps 25 of them. We have monthly Food Pantry drives when food is not served. We have many weeks that a particular committee or group serve. Fellowship Hour is a key component to our connections as a community. This is where we have a chance to talk with one another. Share our stories. Make new friends. Greet old friends. It is also where we can lose new members or visitors. It can be very intimidating to go to a new church for the first time and then have the courage to walk all the way across the street and into a hall full of strangers to get a cup of coffee. A smiling face pouring coffee, a snack to nibble on and friendly people welcoming you can make all the difference.

It's not just Sundays that we want to get together. We have a number of Saturday Suppers and Community Dinners planned for the year. On Saturday, October 28th there will be a Halloween themed pot luck dinner at the Parish House. Community Dinners are planned for January,

March and May. A Saturday Suppers after Vespers is planned for October 14th. The Women's Breakfast kicks off again this fall, too. On October 22nd we will be hosting a "Come Meet with Me" Committee fair at which you can get a chance to look at all the work done by all of the 5 ministries at Old Ship.

If you were to look at our work from a financial stance, the Nurturing Community Ministry does not spend a lot of money. There is not a line item on the budget that can quantify the expenditures of our work. However, the potential impact on our fiscal bottom line is far-reaching. When we feel connected to one another as individuals and as a community, when we are truly welcoming and nurturing to friends and visitors alike, then we will become both spiritually and financially well off. To quote F. Forrester Church,

"Here the act of joining rarely signifies an arrival at one's religious destination. Much more often it represents a new departure. It may mean a new departure down your old path. It may mean the charting of a path unknown to you before. In either case, in joining with us a large part of what you are doing is renewing your commitment to yourself, to your own spiritual development . . . In addition, and just as important, in joining this church you give added strength and energy to it and to all of us who have joined before you. We need you. We need your moral and spiritual support and your financial support as well. We need your thoughts. We need your dreams. This church is no greater than the vitality brought to it by its members."

If you are interested in joining NCC or have any questions, please contact Ivy Butterworth (ivy_butter@yahoo.com) or Janet Asnes (asnes@comcast.net).

October Fellowship Hour Schedule

October 1: Last names A-H bring snacks.
October 8: Last names I-P bring snacks.
October 15: Last names Q-Z bring snacks.
October 22: Food Pantry collection. No snacks served.
October 29: Last names A-H bring snacks.

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.

Educating Hearts and Minds: 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. Here are the next two classes of our 2017-18 year:

Storytelling led by Pat Bianco

Four Tuesdays, Oct. 3 - Oct. 24, Fellowship Hall, 7:00 p.m.

Pat, retired theatre professor, University of Pittsburgh, studied Moth Radio Hour storytelling and will follow Moth precepts and boundaries. Participants will learn how to integrate story elements and time limits, and have fun! Careful, positive feedback will be offered. For information, contact Pat Bianco (bluesulphur3@yahoo.com)

Building Your Own Theology - five sessions, 7:00, Wed., Oct. 18 - Nov. 15

led by Diane Elliott and Ken Read-Brown

Everyone is their own theologian, and in this spirit this UU adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos and to grow in their ability to understand and articulate their own beliefs and values. For more information and to sign up, contact Diane (dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com) or Ken (oldshipkbr@gmail.com)

Hingham's New North Church Heritage Event... concerns us!

At noon on Sunday, October 29, Suzanne Buchanan, past Executive Director of the Hingham Historical Society, will speak at New North Church about the circumstances surrounding the

formation of that congregation, Third Parish as it was then known. Those circumstances most emphatically included our First Parish (Old Ship Church) and a dispute that divided our congregation having to do with the call of our new minister, Rev. Joseph Richardson, to succeed Rev. Henry Ware, who had been appointed Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard. This event is open to the public, and we are most assuredly invited (all is apparently forgiven!).

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.

From the Office

The office is normally open Monday - Friday, 9am - 2pm.

When is a good time to call the office? When you want to ask a question, to talk to a staff member, to request a room for a committee meeting, or have some other hot topic you need to discuss.

Call or email: 781-749-1679 or email Julianna Dunn, office administrator, at office@oldshipchurch.org.

Social Justice Council

The Social Justice Council held its first meeting of the church year on Sat, Sept 23. All meetings are open and we encourage anyone interested in social justice issues to come to our monthly meeting or contact either Brenda Black-Pollara (blackpollara@verizon.net) or Kate Philbin (kate.philbin4@gmail.com). Our next meeting will be on Sat, Oct 21 at 9:00am in the parlor.

Our focus this year is "Protecting Vulnerable Communities" and we hope to reach out to the immigrant community in concrete ways. One of the ways we will be doing this is with the next Special Plate collection on Oct 15. We will be collecting for the International Institute of New England (IINE), an organization which builds inclusive communities in New England (including Boston, Lowell and Manchester, NH) by welcoming refugees and immigrants, and providing them with education and guided pathways to careers and citizenship. They currently need monthly CharlieCards and CharlieTickets costing \$84.50/month for local bus and subway passes.
Hingham Food Pantry

We will collect donations for the monthly "Feeding Others" on Sunday, Oct 22 during coffee hour. Cash donations are always welcome to enable the food pantry to purchase perishables and other needed items. The pantry is not allowed to distribute food items that are out-of-date so please make sure your food donations have a current date. The SJC will be supporting the Empty Bowls event, a fundraiser for the Hingham Food Pantry, to raise awareness of hunger in our local communities. It will be held at Fellowship Hall on Thurs, Oct 26 at 5:00pm. Email Kate if you would like to help with this event.

Old Ship Action Alert Email Network

Sign up to get important messages about UU justice related events and important opportunities to advocate for programs supporting vulnerable populations. Sign up and we will try to let you know when phone calls to our elected representatives are especially important in terms of advocating for policies that are consistent with our UU values. We promise not to overwhelm you with messages! To add your name to the list, send a message to Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net. And also feel free to send Davalene information you think should go out to the network.

Film Collection

Check out the many wonderful DVD's located in the 4th drawer of the tall chest in the parlor. They are available to borrow through a gift of the Jamie Williamson Memorial Film Library.

Among Us

New Day Bereavement Support Group at St. Paul's Church in Hingham

If you are recently or not so recently bereaved because of the loss of a loved one, you are cordially invited to participate in this facilitated group that will be meeting on Tuesday evenings - 7:00- 8:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Church in Hingham Square: October 10, 24; November 7, 21; December 5, 19; January 9, 23; February 6, 20 (March 9 if needed).

If you have questions about the NEW DAY program or need transportation, please contact Elizabeth Reardon at St. Paul's (781-749- 0587 or ereardon@stpaulhingham.org).

Disaster Relief

UUA/UUSC disaster relief funds

For those wishing to contribute to disaster relief in relation to the recent hurricanes, and wish to do so through Unitarian Universalist channels, you can find ways to do so on the web sites for the Unitarian Universalist Association (uua.org) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (uuscs.org). The UUSC has created a fund to assist partner organizations in Burma and Bangladesh in relation to the political and refugee crisis in that part of our world.

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

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