

Subject **Old Ship September Newsletter**
From First Parish, Old Ship Church <office@oldshipchurch.org>
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First Parish, Hingham

Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
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September 2019 Newsletter

**October newsletter deadline:
Monday, September 23**

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Worship

Sunday, September 8, 10:25am

Homecoming Service and Water Communion
Our annual Homecoming Service for all ages welcomes us back to our Old Ship Meetinghouse - repaired steeple and all!

We are all invited to bring to the service a small sample of water from some favorite summer spot - whether as near as cool tap water, backyard stream, Hingham Harbor, or Nantasket Beach, or as far away as one of the seven seas. During the service we will pour these samples into a common bowl, symbolizing our re-gathering in community as well as our connection to all life on our water planet.

The service will also include stories for all ages from Beverly Tricco and Ken Read-Brown.

Our Board of Trustees will host our opening Fellowship Hour.



Noon - There will be an informational parish meeting in Fellowship Hall concerning the status of the parish house project.

Sunday, September 15, 10:25am

Ken's sermon will be "Earth, Spirit, and Us." As the climate change crisis accelerates, a youth-inspired global climate strike will begin on September 20, just as the United Nations prepares to convene its next climate conference.

What is the role of a spiritual or religious perspective in the work to slow global warming, prevent the worst effects of climate change, and seek climate justice for the often poor and marginalized communities affected first and worst by, among much else, rising sea levels and more frequent and harsher heat waves?

At noon in the Parish House parlor Old Ship's Green Sanctuary Team will lead a forum on climate change, inspiring us to do what we can do personally, locally, and politically. Details about our Green Sanctuary work can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Sunday, September 22, 10:25am

"Who Are We?" will be Ken's sermon. We are a Unitarian Universalist congregation. What does that mean? How do we understand the religious quest for meaning - in these times or at any time? What is the relevance of our UU religious path in relation to the wider world in which we live?

In part, this sermon will serve as an introduction to Ken's class (beginning Wednesday, Sept. 25) also titled "Who Are We?" Details about the class can be found elsewhere in the newsletter.

Sunday, September 29, 10:25am

Mahatma Gandhi's 150th birthday will be on October 2. Is his message of "satagraha" (literally "truth force") and non-violent resistance - inspired by the Bhagavad Gita and the Sermon on the Mount, still relevant? Do we in fact need his message more today than ever? Ken's sermon will be: "The Force of Truth."

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

When I was student minister at the First Unitarian Society of San Francisco I helped to organize a panel discussion we titled "How is a Church Different from a Country Club?"

The title was only somewhat tongue in cheek - meant in any case to encourage folks to ponder what it was that made churches (or other religious communities) unique in a world of many voluntary associations and groups.

The best answer in my recollection came from a woman on the panel, a member of the church who was also extraordinarily active in a variety of social change organizations - most notably with leadership roles in the NAACP in San Francisco. I can't recall her name, but I can picture her clearly as she spoke simply and directly to the point that as valuable as the NAACP and other activist and service organizations were, only her church was concerned with her as a whole person.

Her response returns to my memory as these summer days wane and we prepare to re-gather in our Old Ship Meetinghouse to worship, sing, pray, and share - as this community has done for closing in on four hundred years. We re-gather in a time of political turmoil and danger and a time of global crises - I need not make the list. And we re-gather with whatever concerns or challenges, joys and sorrows, thread their way in our personal lives. Why do we gather? Because, echoing that panel member decades ago, here we value the whole person within a community of shared love, part of the interwoven community of all life.

It feels to me that we need each other more than ever.

We need grounding in our shared values more than ever.

We need to be reminded more than ever of who we are at the most fundamental levels of our lives - not separate individuals only, but part and parcel of one another and of all life.

We need to be strengthened and inspired to keep on, to help each other along with way, to speak for justice, and to do our part each of us and all of us together. .

And we need the joy and beauty that spiritual community can offer us - more than ever.

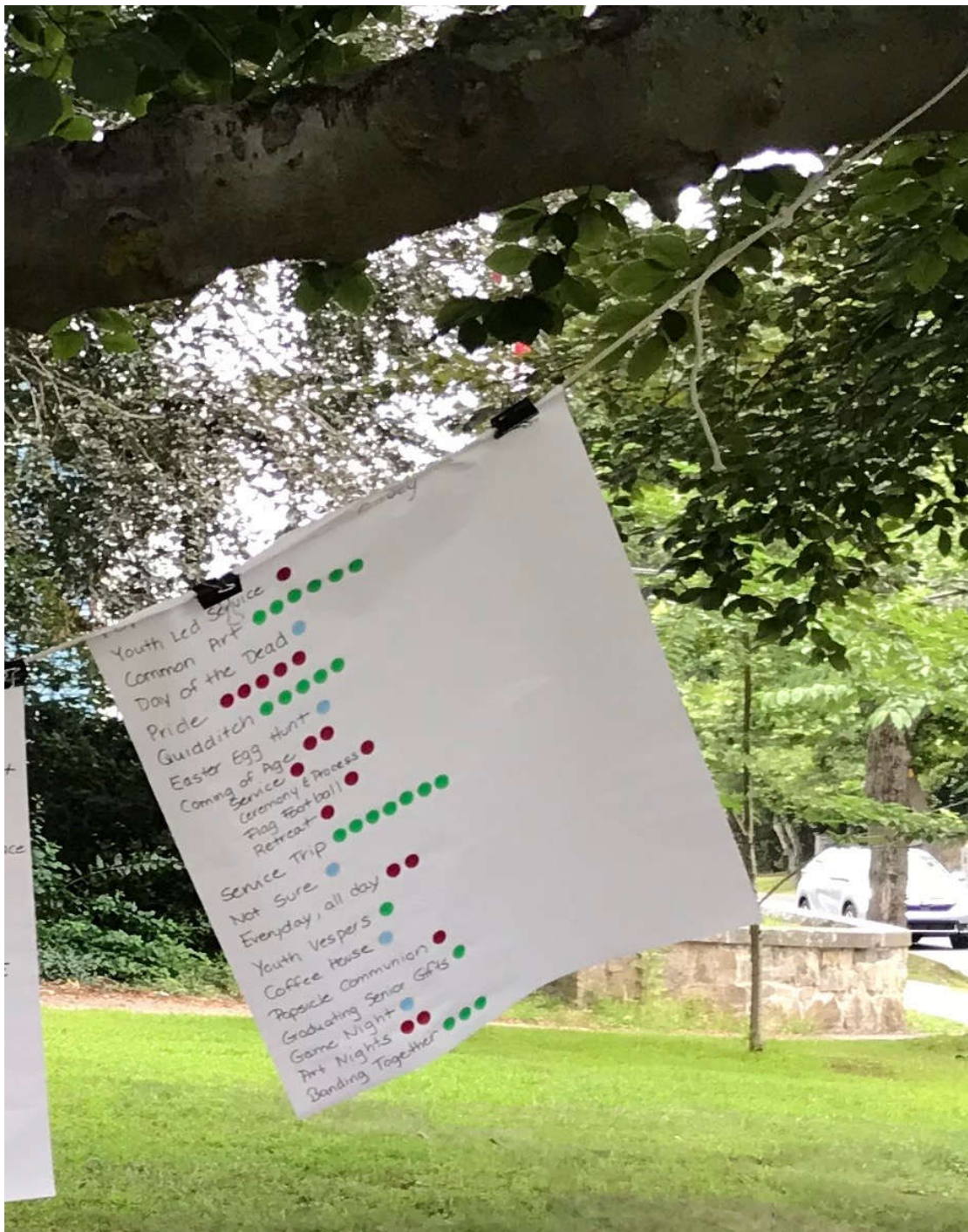
I look forward to seeing you all shortly. I hope the summer has, in one way or another, offered times of renewal and refreshment whatever else life has brought your way.

Peace, blessings, and love,
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 is usually 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



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August 20, 2019

Dear Old Ship,

Your Children's Religious Education Committee met this Saturday on the front lawn of the Parish House. What you see hanging from our venerable tree are the results of the end-of-year survey that we did with the kids at the end of June. The question was, "What was your favorite church memory from last year?" It keeps us honest.

We have around forty Sundays together. If a child attended church and Sunday school every single Sunday, September through June, that would add up to less than 40 hours of religious education a year. That is NOT a lot of time together and we want to make all of it full and meaningful; filled with learning and spiritual experiences that may not be happening in any other part of the children's lives.

Forty Sundays...

Nine of those will be multi-gen worship; great for everyone and full of meaning.

Eight are seasonal celebration days; the kids measure their year by those.

We're left with twenty three Sundays to fill... And we have wonderful plans for those!

This year we will be interspersing our field trips and social action activities with "Nature-based Faith Formation".

Nature-based Faith Formation:

- Takes place exclusively outdoors in natural settings in all kinds of weather.
- Includes a blend of unstructured play and exploration, fire or sharing circles, outdoor skills, nature-craft and storytelling.
- Strengthens connections with self, others, nature, and the transcendent.

This will be a new and experimental model for us, but it draws on the Forest Schools of Denmark and Sweden as well as the Montessori, Waldorf, and Reggio Emilia approaches. According to an article in The Atlantic: "Today's kids are growing up at a moment when American childhood-like much of American life-is increasingly indoors and technologically enhanced. Families spend more time indoors and on screens. Smartphones have warped the teenage experience. Perhaps as part of reaction to those trends, the United States is witnessing a budding movement to reintegrate childhood with the natural world. Nature preschools, outdoor pre-K, forest kindergartens-call them what you like: Early-education programs like these are starting in communities all over the country.

"The ideas that underscore these programs trace back, in part, to a 2005 book by the journalist Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods*. Louv argued that American childhood had become overly standardized, overly structured, and overly saturated with technology."

That's a lot of jargon... but in my heart and in my gut, I can't help but think we'll be offering our children something they don't even know they are starving for.

Meanwhile, we'll need folks to share their expertise with us... For one Sunday; two at the most...

Are you a beekeeper? We'd love to learn about that.

Are you a storyteller? That would be so cool.

Want to lead some Yoga? We have a lovely lawn for outdoor Yoga.

Do you love a sing-along? We would all enjoy that.

Do you know how to create huts from fallen branches? Show us how!

Do you do animal rescue? We could make a Sunday lesson out of that.

I'd love to schedule twenty Old Ship folks to share one Sunday of experience and enthusiasm with our young people. You don't have to know how to make it "kid-friendly"; you can meet with me in advance and I can figure that out.

This is going to be my last year at Old Ship, and I think we could make it something really cool and really memorable. And I would love to make use of these three acres while we have them.

Many hands make light work...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

From the board president, Janet Asnes

When the Board of Trustees met earlier this summer we opened with this chalice lighting from Krista Flanagan titled " Embracing the Unexpected"

What if everything always went according to plan? At first, we might accomplish more of what we think we need to accomplish. And it may seem less stressful, at first, being able to anticipate what happens next. But after a certain amount of time (and that amount would vary person to person) the once-comfortable predictability would become less comfortable and... well, boring.

If we always know what happens next, we lose the joy of surprise, serendipitous experiences, and the excitement that comes from anticipating the unknown. Friends, let us gather with open, curious hearts, ready to explore the unpredictable, learn from its wisdom, and embrace its beauty.

This reading spoke to me and my hopes for the coming year. I am excited to see everyone and eager to pick up the pace on all that we want to accomplish. I am comforted knowing that we will be sharing our water communion on our first Sunday back and I am looking forward to the meetings that have already popped up on my calendar. There is a predictability and pattern to my life once church is back in session.

One of things I can be sure about is the predictability of the unpredictability of what lays before us. We can put meetings and events on the calendar. But, we can't fully predict what the coming year will bring. We know that we will come to a resolution on selling the parish house but we're not sure what is yet. We are looking for a new Music Director but don't have one yet. We know that this is our DRE's last year with us and that our Religious Education Committee is brainstorming programmatic changes to help us bridge this time (please see Beverly's newsletter article about this exciting year). We do know that we have an engaged and vibrant congregation to take on these and any other challenges that come our way.

What I am most excited about is being on this journey with all of you. It's never boring!

~Janet Asnes, Board of Trustees President

Music Director Search

As we reported over the summer, it was with great sadness that we received Chris Hossfeld's resignation, to enable him to accept a position closer to home.

The Board of Trustees has appointed a Music Director Search Committee: Pat Bianco (chair), Ginger Jensen, Diane Jordan, Catherine Mayes, and Chris Sullivan, with Ken Read-Brown serving ex-officio.

Applications have already been received, and we will keep the congregation informed along the way. Chris Hossfeld has set a wonderfully high standard for the position. We are seeking a new director with that standard in mind, though no doubt uniquely different in her or his own way, bringing her or his particular gifts to the position.

--Ken

Educating Minds and Hearts

Old Ship Life Learning

Who Are We?

five sessions, Wednesdays
September 25 - October 16, 7:00, parlor
led by Ken Read-Brown and other Old Ship members
Who are we as Unitarian Universalists? How are we different and how are we the same as other religious groups? Sessions will focus on our UU history, principles, and how we bring our UU faith into our lives - including an invitation to participants to create a



personal credo. For more information and to sign up, contact Ken, 781-749-1679 or oldshipkrb@gmail.com.



For a complete listing of this year's classes and ongoing programs, see the "learning" page on our web site <http://www.oldshipchurch.org/for-adults.html>, where the complete list of this year's offerings of classes and ongoing groups will be listed: including meditation sessions, the Bodhisattva Study Group, Men's Breakfast, Women's Breakfast, ceilidh (song circle), Sacred Texts Meditation Group, and Fiber Funship.

The Life Learning Committee invites and welcomes your suggestions for classes, forums, and workshops for the coming year. Contact any member of the committee with your ideas:

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

Our Community

Committee on Ministry

The Committee on Ministry, with a rotating membership appointed by our Board of Trustees, meets monthly with our minister, Ken Read-Brown, to reflect on the five ministries of Old Ship and sometimes to discuss particular current concerns or issues with the life of our congregation.

Input, questions, concerns, ideas from Old Ship members and friends is of course always welcome. Feel free to contact Ken or any of the members of the committee: Eva Marx, Rob Baynes, Cory Fitz-Marquez, John Sneath, Pam Harty, and Dennis Hogan.

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team meets monthly with Ken and often coordinates meals and other forms of caring for Old Ship individuals and families in the midst of illness or crisis. If you have a need or are aware of a need that the PCLT might be able to help meet, you may be in touch with Ken or any member of the group. At Old Ship we all share in our mutual caring and helping one another; the Pastoral Care Leadership Team simply helps to identify needs and coordinate responses.

There are specifically three ways Old Ship members might want to help out:

- Rides: Would you be able to give an Old Ship parishioner a ride to church, either regularly or from time to time?
- Food: Would you be willing to prepare a casserole to be given to someone who could use a little extra help following a hospitalization or in the midst of illness or treatments?
- Companionship: Would you be willing to spend a few hours now and then with an Old Ship member when the primary caregiver in their household needs to be away from the home for a short while?

If you might be able to help in any of these ways, please be in touch with a member of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team. Thanks very much!

Ralph Brown, ralph.e.brown@gmail.com (781-925-9197)
 Elaine Gomez, eh-gomez@comcast.net (781-740-1663)
 Alicia Harkness, PAJL7@verizon.net (781-749-7825)
 Fan Leonard, oldship1927@gmail.com (781-749-2852)
 Liz Flint, Elizabethflint@hotmail.com
 Joan Wilson, janielw@verizon.net (781-740-8840)
 Beverly Tricco, oldshipdre@oldshipchurch.org (781-749-1679)
 Ken Read-Brown, oldshipkrb@gmail.com (781-749-1679)

Nurturing Community Council

Food for Fellowship Hour

Fellowship Hour is a time to reconnect or get acquainted over a cup of coffee and a snack. Every Sunday we ask a different segment of the alphabet to bring a plate of food for coffee hour.

September 15: Last names beginning A-H

September 22: Last names beginning I-P

September 29: Last names beginning Q-Z

October 6: Last names beginning A-H



"Welcome Back" Saturday Supper

Catch up with old friends and meet new ones as we begin our new church year with a 'Welcome Back' Saturday Supper at the Parish House on September 14 at 6:00 p.m. This is a great way to get to know one another better and all are welcome at this potluck dinner! Only non-alcoholic beverages will be served. Sign-up to bring your favorite main dish, salad, or dessert by contacting Sharon Prehn (781-925-0101, prehn@verizon.net) or sign up during Fellowship Hour. Volunteers for set-up and clean-up would be greatly appreciated as well. A \$3 contribution per person is encouraged to cover our expenses for paper goods, centerpieces, and beverages.



Cash for cartridges

Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. Drop off your cartridges in the office or in the cabinet right outside the office door. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!

Nurturing Community Council - what's it all about?

Have you ever wondered about the role of 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 within the Old Ship Community.

Our main purpose is to find ways to connect all of us together as one community. One of the ways in which we bond as a community is to take turns ushering and/or being Fellowship Hour hosts.

There are 42 Sundays in this year's church calendar. On each of those 42 Sundays we need 2 volunteers to usher and 2 volunteers to be Fellowship Hour hosts. Ushers perform a vital role in our service by greeting a visitor or friend, carrying the microphones during Joys and Concerns, helping with the collection, and thereby supporting the spiritual and financial needs of our community.

Each Sunday we also need Fellowship Hour hosts. Fellowship Hour food is provided by a rotating segment of the alphabet every Sunday based on last names. Hosts are not obligated to provide food, but they are needed to serve the food, pour the coffee and clean up.

We hope you are willing to chip in and help with these recurring tasks. A sign-up board is available every Sunday at the Welcome Table or you can sign up online using Sign-Up Genius. Go to <http://oldshipchurch.org/sunday-caring-tasks1.html> and click on "Caring Task Signups." Feel free to contact Sharon Prehn (prehn@verizon.net) or Ivy Butterworth (ivy_butter@yahoo.com) for help with Sign-up Genius.

It's not just Sundays that we want to get together. We have several Saturday Suppers at the Parish House or Community Dinners at members' homes planned for this year. The first one this fall will be on Saturday, September 14 in the Parish Hall.

Would you like to be part of this group? 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. Please contact Sharon or Ivy for more information. Thank you.

Social Justice Council

Would you help with Old Ship's Annual Food Drive to benefit the Hingham Food Pantry? Sunday Sept. 22nd 12-2 or 2-4 pm at Stop and Shop, Lincoln Plaza, Rt 3A, hingham

Old Ship's annual effort to collect donations of non-perishable foods for the Hingham Food Pantry, held in September this year at the Pantry's request to help them restock after the summer months of reduced donations.

Old Ship volunteers stand at the Stop and Shop entrances, hold signs, offer "shopping lists" of items needed by the pantry, collect donations and box them for delivery to the Food Pantry. Adult, youth and children volunteers needed! If you can help, please contact Davalene Cooper davalenecooper@verizon.net or look for the sign-up during Fellowship Hour on Sun 9/15.

Forum on Migrant Justice

Sun. Sept. 29th at 12 noon in the Parlor

Eva Marx will speak about visiting UUSC Project Partners in Mexico! One of the primary ways that the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) addresses its mission of advancing human rights and social justice around the world is by partnering with grassroots organizations that advance its objectives. In March, Eva Marx had the opportunity to visit four of UUSC's partners working on migrant justice in Mexico City and Guadalajara. These partners are helping people gain asylum in Mexico, advocating for families of migrants who disappeared on the trail, and running shelters that provide safety and services to the those fleeing violence, corruption and poverty in Central America. She will share her observations with us.

Serving Others through bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry

The SJC invites you to continue to Serve Others by bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry whenever you come to Old Ship. There is a collection basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House each Sunday to receive your donation. The collection box in the outer vestibule of the Parish House is also available to accept donations when you come for classes or meetings or anytime.

Our donations over the summer totaled 107 lbs. for which the Pantry was very grateful!

The Pantry has asked for the following items especially needed to restock their shelves:

- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Canned soup
- Macaroni & cheese
- Canned pasta and stews
- Pasta sauce



Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at davalenecooper@verizon.net

Interested in Social Justice work at Old Ship?

You are welcome at any Social Justice Council meeting to talk with us about your ideas of how Old Ship can Serve Others. Our first meeting for this church year will be Saturday 9/14 at 9 am in the Parlor of the Parish House. Contact Brenda Black blackpollara@verizon.net or Davalene Cooper davalenecooper@verizon.net

Early Holiday Shopping--Hold the Date - Sun. Oct. 20: During Coffee Hour on Sunday, October 20, the Social Justice Council will host a fair of area groups selling handcrafted items from Central America. Proceeds will benefit projects and persons in Central American countries. More details will be forthcoming in the next newsletter.

Green Sanctuary

Welcome back to our Green Sanctuary work. It has been a significant Summer for Global Warming Watchers and Workers. The numbers are in: For the World, this July has been the warmest July on record ever. On July 21st through 24th Hingham was under formal "Heat Alert" with a call to constrain excessive electrical use through peak hours. Our heat index reached 110 degrees. The heat dome reached from Maine to Seattle, and St. Louis to Washington DC. On July 25th a torrential rainstorm blew through the area, spawning a waterspout turned tornado that did damage on the Cape. Abroad, Spain and central Europe suffered more with a heat dome sourced over the Sahara that later went on to cause torrential melting of the Greenland ice sheet. And so Global Warming's threat has become a "here and now" crisis, and the call to stop its advance grows absolute.



While this call is ignored in Washington DC, and the administration goes in the other direction, Massachusetts and many "Blue" states are working hard to meet the Paris Accord promises by reducing carbon emissions to Zero by 2050. "Global Warming Crisis" has finally found voice in the presidential politics of the Democratic primary. In truth, the fight to save the planet has fused with the fight to save democracy. It is time for the watchers to become workers.

In Massachusetts the efforts to reduce emissions to zero by 2050 are both top down and bottom up. Top down the Baker administration continues the implementation of the Global Warming Solutions Act, Green Communities Act, solar incentives, hydropower procurement and new incentives for transportation. The ISO-NE continues to manage the grid with improvements in the renewable supply of electricity through the Regional Greenhouse Gas Initiative while the legislature is working to improve all these elements, create new ones and develop funding for what remains to be done. The bottom up is where we come in. Across Massachusetts individual towns are on the forefront of converting their electricity - like we have - to 100% fossil fuel free.

With the notable success of this effort and the growing recognition of what needs to be done for the climate crisis, a new movement has begun. Towns are taking the leap to bring all the town's (and towns-people's) carbon emissions to net zero by 2050. This will involve all sectors: homes, businesses, transportation, new building codes for the future, more solar installations, contracting for offshore wind and much more. Mass Climate Action Network, Mass Area Planning Council, Mass Power Forward, 350MA and many other environmental organizations are supporting these efforts. The legislature is working on funding sources to help municipalities as well. In Hingham, Old Ship member Laura Burns has catalyzed the forming of "Citizens for Hingham net Zero" which will be working to mobilize the community of Hingham in support of this essential transition. We hope to make Green Sanctuary an important player in this campaign.

Important Upcoming Events:

-Sat. Sept. 14th 12 noon-5 pm: Sustainable South Shore annual Sustainable Technology Fair to demonstrate the many tools and related vendors available to help us reach our sustainable goals. Part of Hull's Endless Summer event, Nantasket Ave in front of the Paragon Carousel, Hull -- noon to five Details <http://www.hullchamber.com/endless-summer>

-Sun. Sept. 15th 12 noon: Green Sanctuary and Ken Read Brown will host a post-sermon discussion. Ken will be preaching on the spiritual challenges to achieving the full measure of social, economic and climate Justice. Green Sanctuary will be present in the post sermon discussion to answer questions about our plans and hopes for the coming year. In the Parish House parlor.

-Fri. Sept. 20th : International Climate Strike begins. Greta Thurnberg has invoked the saying "There is no hope without action". This day and the days through the 27th will see a number of events to spur the call on the world to act. We must respond. For more information see <https://globalclimatiestrike.net/>

UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)

"The mission of the UU Urban Ministry (UUUM) is to unite communities and transform individuals through education, service, and advocacy. We engage communities and congregations in social action and change, with programs that empower youth and adults to realize their full potential. Over nearly 200 years, our programs have adapted to meet the needs of our community."



Events and volunteer opportunities with our Roxbury-based partner:

-Sept 14th 1-5pm: The Makanda Project Jazz concert and family friendly fair. Jazz, Ice cream, chair massages and MORE!! On the green of the First Parish in Roxbury, 10 Putnam St, Roxbury. Rain or shine!

-Seeking SAT and ACT test prep volunteers for Roxbury Youth Program students. Tutoring a small group of students bi-weekly in the Fall, volunteers work under the close supervision of Roxbury Youth Program staff. Email Christine Dickerson at cdickerson@uuum.org

Coffeehouse off the Square - Jez Lowe, Saturday, Sept. 21, 7:30 pm

All the way from England comes this great folk legend. No one else writes or sounds like Jez Lowe. You will be amazed by his singing, his multi-instrumental playing, and all the original songs that you're likely to recognize. His songs have been covered by Gordon Bok, Liam Clancy, Fairport Convention, The Tannahill Weavers, Cherish the Ladies, and literally hundreds of others. Please come enjoy a super evening with a world famous folk singer right here in Hingham!

Note: Proceeds from Coffee House on the Square performances benefit the UU Service Committee

Help Needed at the Coffeehouse

Coffeehouse off the Square has been going since 1983. It started as an outgrowth of the local nuclear freeze movement and the movement against U.S. intervention in Central America. The monies raised originally went to Central American relief and now all funds raised beyond operating expenses get donated to the general fund of the UnitarianUniversalist Service Committee (UUSC). Please become a part of this important activity of the church and community. Not only does it raise important funds but it creates a venue for live music and local entertainment outside of a bar environment and allows young and older music enthusiasts to practice performing in front of live audience through our open mic at the beginning of each show. It runs the third Saturday of each month, September through May, as well as a Sunday afternoon Christmas show.

The Coffeehouse effort could always use volunteers in several areas but we could especially use someone who could replace our retiring treasurer as well as more kitchen and sound help. Please get in touch with Eric Cornetta at 781-740- 0628, eecornetta@verizon.net, or Jim Watson at 781 -749-1767 for more details, or show up at the coffeehouse to inquire. Our first show of the season is Jez Lowe on Saturday, September 21 at our new time at 7:30 pm. Many thanks!

Honoring the First Africans in America-Old Ship Participates in Ringing the Bells on August 25, 2019

Although we received news of this national event just a few days before it occurred, a few of us were able to gather to share in the ringing of the bell for 4 minutes, beginning at 3 p.m. Why were we ringing the bell?

Four hundred years ago on August 25, 1619, the White Lion ship arrived at Point Comfort, now known as Fort Monroe National Monument in Hampton, Virginia. The ship contained enslaved Africans. This is the first recorded arrival of Africans in America. This year, this anniversary is being commemorated at Fort Monroe as a day of healing and reconciliation.

The park and its partners invited all 419 national parks, National Parks Service programs, community partners, and the public to come together in solidarity to ring bells simultaneously across the nation for four minutes--one for each century--to honor the first Africans who landed in 1619 at Point Comfort and to commemorate 400 years of American history. Quoting from the invitation:

The landing of the first recorded Africans at Point Comfort in 1619 marked the moment African culture became an integral part of American culture and an indelible influence on the development of our nation. The early relationship between the unfree Africans and English in the Virginia colony is complicated, yet their forced arrival set into motion an important African imprint on every aspect of American society and culture. Moreover, Africans' fight for freedom, equality, and inclusion was transformative because it began our nation on its journey toward racial equality - something we are still working toward today.

We at Old Ship were honored to be part of this commemoration. As Ken Read-Brown said in greetings he sent to the gathering, "we recognize this important and too little acknowledged historical moment - with the hope that we will be inspired us to move forward with ever deeper commitment to a nation of genuine equality and freedom for all." May it be so.

Ballou Channing District merges with UUA

The Ballou Channing District of the Unitarian Universalist Association, of which Old Ship is a part, has dissolved. Effective August 1, 2019, the district merged with the UUA. It transferred all its assets to the UUA, and ended its operations.

The district was formed in 1964, three years after the merger of the American Unitarian Association and the Universalist Church of America. It maintained a staff and a district office at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brockton. The district consisted of 45 congregations in the South Shore, Cape Cod and the Islands, and Rhode Island.



Rev. William P. Zelazny was chief executive of the district for 15 years until resigning on June 30, 2014. He is now minister of Channing Memorial Church, Newport, Rhode Island.

At the time, the district provided member congregations with services including religious education support, professional staff consulting, training and support seminars for lay people, and support for district governance.

Zelazny's departure came in conjunction with the UUA's creation of the New England Region in 2015. In doing so, the UUA moved most district operations, and staff, into the region. The region's offices are now in the UUA headquarters at 24 Farnsworth Street, Boston. Woullard Lett of Manchester, NH, is Regional Lead.

At the time, four separate, independent districts represented the congregations in New England: Ballou Channing, Clara Barton, Massachusetts Bay and Northern New England. The single New England Region now represents the same congregations, and offers services comparable to what the districts used to provide.

A year after the region came into being, two districts - Clara Barton and Massachusetts Bay - decided to dissolve. The two remaining districts decided they would continue to operate.

In March 2018, however, the Northern New England District board decided to dissolve. After examining its activities for the past two and a half years, it concluded that it was no longer "relevant". This decision by Northern New England prompted the Ballou Channing district to ask if it should continue to operate. It wondered: Is what we are doing so different from our three neighboring districts that we should continue, even though they have decided not to?

The answer was "no". The BCD board at its April 2018 meeting voted to begin "taking the necessary steps to dissolve the district as soon as possible." Delegates at the 2018 annual meeting voted to support the move.

Two months later, the board established a dissolution task force and charged it to study what was needed to dissolve the district, and recommend to the board what should be done to make this happen.

Five members of the district constituted the task force:

Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, minister of First Parish Church in Duxbury and a member of the BCD board

Rev. Dr. Kristen Harper, minister of the Unitarian Church of Barnstable

Larry Ladd, a member of the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Falmouth and Financial Advisor to the Unitarian Universalist Association

Eva Marx, a member of Old Ship, a former president of the Ballou Channing District and a former director of the Unitarian Universalist Association

Janet Richardi, a member of the Murray Unitarian Universalist Church and a former president of the Ballou Channing District.

Among other things, the group identified and secured the services of Hemenway & Barnes LLP, a Boston law firm that has extensive experience with non-profit organizations. Brad Bedingfield, a partner in the law firm, advised the group that ending district operations could take place quickly and economically by merging with the UUA, rather than following the lengthy and expensive steps that the Clara Barton and Massachusetts Bay districts had undertaken.

The process required approval of delegates to the UUA General Assembly, which took place in June in Spokane, Washington. It also needed approval of the Attorney General of Massachusetts. The attorney general's approval came near the end of July, and the merger took effect on Aug. 1.

Ralph Brown, a member of Old Ship, was president of the BCD board. Other officers were Mary Lu Love of Unity Church in North Easton, vice president; Charlie Donnelly, UU Congregation of South County, RI, secretary; and Rev. Paul Sprecher, First Parish UU Church of Bridgewater, treasurer.

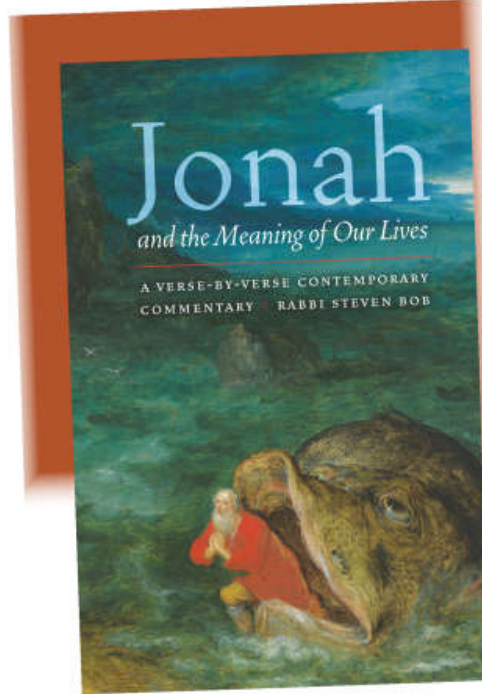
Board members were William Clark, Old Ship and First Parish UU Church of Scituate; Rev. Dr. Catherine Cullen, First Parish Church of Duxbury; Rev Sarah Person, First UU Society of Middleborough; Elisabeth McGregor, Unitarian Church of Sharon, and Kate Sullivan, First Parish Church, UU, of Kingston.

- For additional information, please contact Ralph Brown (ralph.e.brown@gmail.com; 781-385-7282)

Jonah and the Meaning of Our Lives

The Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association
in collaboration with Congregation Sha'aray Shalom

cordially invites you to
a presentation
based on the book
*Jonah and the Meaning
of Our Lives*
by Rabbi Steven Bob,
published by
The Jewish Publication Society.



*A book signing and
dessert reception
follow the lecture.*

Hosted by Congregation Sha'aray Shalom
1112 Main Street, Hingham

Tuesday, September 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m.

Suggested voluntary donation at the door \$10.00

RSVP to Execdir@shaaray.org

From our neighbors at St. Paul's Church:

BEREAVEMENT SUPPORT GROUP

"The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed spirit." Psalm 34:18

If you are recently or not so recently bereaved because of the loss of a loved one, you are most welcome to attend:

OPEN HOUSE: Tuesday, September 10, 7-8:30pm
St. Paul Rectory, 147 North Street, Hingham, MA

Facilitators: Jack Rayburn, Martha Schwartz

Director of Parish Ministries: Elizabeth Reardon
When: Tuesday evenings - 7:00- 8:30 PM
Sept. 24, Oct. 8, & 22, Nov. 5, & 19, Dec. 10
Jan. 7, & 21, Feb. 4 & 19

March 3rd makeup if needed

"New Day" is based on the premise that sharing one's thoughts, feelings and experiences with others in a similar situation is one of the most helpful ways to move beyond the pain that is caused by the death of a loved one. This support group is an opportunity to move with others who have experienced a loss, on the journey from grief to healing through prayer, reflection, and conversation. A recent member said, "It is amazing to see how people sharing a common hurt can come together and support one another."

If you are unable to attend the Open House, please contact St. Paul office 781-749-0587, stpaulparishhingham@gmail.com or Jack Rayburn, 781-749-0361, jackrayburn@comcast.net

"This is precisely the time when artists go to work. There is no time for despair, no place for self-pity. No need for silence, no room for fear. We speak, we write, we do language. That is how civilizations heal."

Toni Morrison included in the 150th anniversary issue of the "The Nation."

Submitted by Mary Thomas who believes this statement is also true of all citizens at this time to "go to work."

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

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