



First Parish, Hingham

## Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

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### September 2018 Newsletter

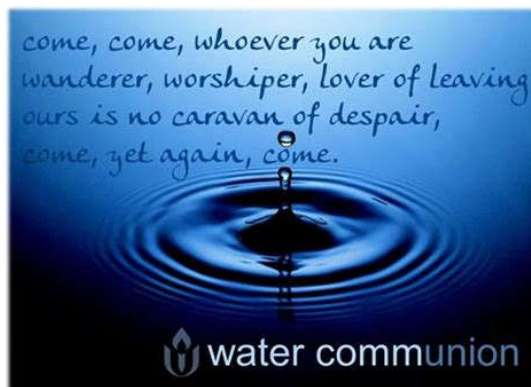
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## Worship

### Sunday, September 9 10:25am

#### Homecoming Service for All Ages

Following a summer of wonderful summer services, we return to worship in our Old Ship Meeting House! This service for all ages will include a message from Beverly Tricco and Ken Read-Brown as well as our annual "water communion" ceremony: we are each invited to bring a small sample of water from a favorite summer spot, whether as far away as a distant sea or as near as Hingham Harbor or a backyard stream, to contribute to a single bowl of water, symbolizing our re-gathering in community. (As usual, we will have extra water available to represent the water you would have brought, should you forget.)



**(Special Rosh Hashanah request:** *Anyone who is able to help with child care during any portion of the Monday morning, **September 10** services at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom. beginning at 9:45 - please contact our office, [office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org) or Ken Read-Brown at [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com). Thank you! Our friends at Congregation Sha'aray Shalom kindly return the favor on Christmas Eve.)*

### Sunday, September 16

Rosh Hashanah on the Jewish calendar is a time for reflecting on the year past and the year to come. Ken's sermon will be "How Forgiving is the Earth?". Does the Bible encourage care of the earth or is Biblically based theology responsible, as some argue, for the ways in which humans have too often dominated and exploited the creation? *(The sermon will also relate to Ken's class. The Bible and Earth Care," beginning on September 19; see details about the class and signing up elsewhere in the newsletter.)*

### Sunday, September 23

Ken's sermon will be "Still Puritans?". We may think of the Puritan heritage of New England (including of course the Puritan heritage of our First Parish) as something we rebelled against and transcended as we gradually embraced a Unitarian theology. But in many ways we are as Puritan as ever - which might be a better thing than we reflexively may imagine it to be.

From Religious Education folks: ALL are invited to come along on our U.U. History field trip to Boston, leaving the Parish House at 7:45 a.m.. We'll be leaving in time for the 9:00 King's Chapel "Morning Light Service" in the Little Chapel, 64 Beacon Street, and then will explore some other sites important in U.U. history. We'll be returning at about 1:30. Watch email "weekly updates" or contact Beverly Tricco ([beverlytmail@gmail.com](mailto:beverlytmail@gmail.com)) for further details.

**Sunday, September 30**

"Where is Mr. Rogers When We Need Him?" Ken writes, "Early this summer I saw with great pleasure the film about Mr. Rogers when it was playing at the Loring Theater. Perhaps you did too. His counter-cultural messages (for all ages!) endure and, it seems to me, are more important than ever."



During Fellowship Hour we will celebrate with gratitude Beverly Tricco's tenth anniversary of her serving as our Director of Religious Education! This will also give us the opportunity to wish her well as she begins her sabbatical time during the remainder of the fall

**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'm writing this Musing in view of summer beauty - blue water, blue sky, gentle breeze. But I am well aware that all is not well in this world of ours. I'm aware to begin with of some of the serious challenges that many of you are facing; and I'm all too aware, as we all are, of the challenges we face together in our nation and in the world. In addition to issues ranging from income inequality, racism, climate change, and much else - all of which could be addressed in a well-functioning democracy - civil discourse has been debased in ways we have not seen for decades, if ever, in our nation. And it has been debased by those who should be elevating our discourse.

What then should be the role of a religious community such as ours during such times?

Well, pretty much the same as it always has been: To grow in ethical and spiritual maturity so that we might ever more compassionately care for one another, serve others in need, and passionately seek to bring that ethical and spiritual grounding to whatever ways we can as we help to create a more just and peaceful nation and world.

Simple as that!

Simple, yet of course rarely easy. Which is why we are part of a community of mutual support, care, and love. For we are stronger and more creative together. More than this, along the way we can nurture a joyful spirit too. For the world needs not only serious commitment, the world needs more joy.

It will be very good to see you all soon, and to gather once again in our ancient Meeting House, a House made sacred not by ritual or word, but by love. Together we will continue to care and share, and to bring more joy and love to the life we share with all life.

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](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com). --Ken*

## Director of Religious Education

Dear Old Ship,



This is my pollinator garden.  
I took this photo last night.  
I worked on this garden all summer.

Some of you may recognize bits and pieces... I learned to make these raised beds on our service and learning trip to West Virginia... The lumber came out of Old Ship's garage; I bought the leftovers from the Youth Group. I got seeds from lots of gardener friends from all the far flung corners of my life, and I got cuttings from Pam Harty's mini-meadow right here in Hingham. When I got impatient, I even bought some stuff from nurseries.

I learned a lot putting this garden together... I made a lot of mistakes... I underestimated the fascination my dogs would have for the rich brown soil and had to build uprights in each bed and then wrap rabbit fencing... then I realized I would need to weed each bed and had to cut the rabbit fencing. The one thing that rabbit fencing DID let in was rabbits, and they ate all of dandelions that I was graciously allowing to bunk in with my bought and nurtured plants.

I tell you this because this is how I learn about life. We make plans... the world has its own plans... things don't happen the way we predicted... and we adapt and change. And that is perfectly OK.

Last year, we did wonderful multi-gen worship services every month. Our hope was that this would help teachers and families connect the formal service in the church to the community across the street in the Parish House. As it turned out, fewer families attended than we'd hoped,

and elders, teachers and other adults were our most enthusiastic attendees. Surprise!! Turns out, that was perfectly OK... and we're going to keep doing it.

We have wonderful plans for this year across the age groups. I will be publishing the calendar of the things we have planned so far; like everything, it will grow and change as things develop.

We will need volunteer teachers, parents and non-parents, for every age group. You will be hearing more from me about that. We have a super cooperative Religious Education program and families come from several surrounding towns to be part of it. Please check in with me or with anyone on the Children's Religious Education Committee or the Youth Committee to find out where your niche might be.

Many hands make light work...

Beverly Tricco

Director of Religious Education

beverlytmail@gmail.com

p.s. Like last year, our first day of R.E. will be a scavenger hunt of the Parish house... Ground floor to attic... Teams of teachers, children and Youth... Getting to know each other, the building, and where to find stuff, all in one fun, pseudo-competitive swoop...

### Note from Chris Hossfeld, Music Director

Dear members of the Old Ship community-

I have missed you over the summer! I'm looking forward to returning to our regular worship services and reconnecting with you.

The choir has an exciting year planned, including some beautiful music and special services. Look for more details soon about the first Vespers service coming up in October. The first choir rehearsal is Thursday, September 6, from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. Everyone is welcome to sing in the choir, so please consider joining us.



I would love to include more parish instrumentalists in the regular music offerings at Old Ship services. If you play an instrument and would like to play during a service, either as a solo or as part of a group, please get in touch with me! It could be as a prelude, offertory, or even accompanying a choir anthem. I would be happy to work with musicians of all skill levels to find something that you feel comfortable playing.

Our soprano soloist, Evan Leontis, has some exciting news - she has accepted an offer from the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley for the position of Lecturer in Voice. It has been wonderful to work with Evan this past year - we will certainly miss her and wish her the very best in her new adventures. We are very fortunate that Heather Bachelder, who has sung with the choir already on a number of occasions, will be joining us as interim soprano soloist through December.

Enjoy your remaining days of summer. I will see you all shortly!

Chris

Chris Hossfeld

[musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:musicdirector@oldshipchurch.org)



## **Nurturing Community**

### **Pastoral Care Leadership Team**

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



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

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

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

Ralph Brown, [ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) (781-925-9197)  
 Diane Elliott, [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com) (781-749-2248)  
 Elaine Gomez, [eh-gomez@comcast.net](mailto:eh-gomez@comcast.net) (781-740-1663)  
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 Ken Read-Brown, [oldshipkrb@gmail.com](mailto:oldshipkrb@gmail.com) (781-749-1679)

### **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: Santjes Oomen-Lochtefeld, Nigel Harvey, Eva Marx, Rob Baynes, Cory Fitz-Marquez, and John Sneath.

### **Volunteer Opportunities!**

Have you ever wondered when you see ushers welcome people into Old Ship or fellowship hour hosts pour coffee, how exactly those folks happen to be carrying out those tasks?

The answer is quite simple. They volunteered! Over the course of 42 weeks during the church year, we need 84 ushers and 84 hosts (and we don't need hosts every Sunday). If each of us agreed to usher or host only four times during the year, the jobs would be easily filled.

Directions and a sign-up sheet are available on Old Ship's website ([www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)).

You can also find a sign-up board at the Welcome Table. Lastly, feel free to send an e-mail to Ivy Butterworth at [Ivy\\_butter@yahoo.com](mailto:Ivy_butter@yahoo.com).

Volunteers are needed for Sept. 16 and 23; the October calendar is looking quite blank. Many thanks for your help.

Ivy Butterworth and Sharon Prehn  
Co-chairs, Nurturing Community Council Committee

## Board of Trustees

### Welcome Back Friends!

Along with the changing weather, September always brings me a level of excitement. In September, all things seem possible. It's the time of new pencils and crayons, changing leaves, comfortable sleeping weather and getting back to Old Ship. This year is no exception. I am excited to see old friends, make new friends and feel reconnected with our community.

This summer our board of trustees met for their annual retreat, and a good portion of the day was spent on answering specific questions about what we are doing well and where can we continue to grow at Old Ship. It was an easy conversation to have. Our Sunday services are thought provoking and inspiring. The addition of more multi-generational services and the amazing music program have increased our sense of connection. We continue to receive positive feedback on how friendly and welcoming we are to new people. Our religious education classes invigorate us from ages four to one hundred-four. Our commitment to social justice is strong. We are great at expressing our values through social justice work. Where can we grow from here? There is always room:

Our multi-generational services are well received. The congregation truly enjoys them. How can we get the congregation more involved? How do we reach out to families?

We continually offer a warm and caring welcome to new people. How do we encourage them to stay? One simple way to encourage more conversations is by ensuring all of us are wearing our name tags.

We offer many programs and opportunities to be involved at Old Ship but often scramble to find volunteers and teachers and money to support them. Let's find out why YOU volunteer and what you like about it. Let me know why you do the things you do at Old Ship. We will be adding a section to the newsletter or publicizing other ways why we volunteer and what it means to us.

Our message is good and so needed in today's world. How do we share it more broadly? Let's use the newsletter and social media to reach out to more people. Let's reach out to the community and be as visible as possible. Are you participating or attending an Old Ship event? Bring a friend with you and/or take a picture and send it to us to put in the newsletter and on social media.

It's an exciting time to be part of Old Ship. There are a lot of wonderful things happening now. We are a congregation of caring, loving, thoughtful people who are seeking to make themselves and the world a better place. Let's get started...let's keep it going.

Janet Asnes, board president



### Social Justice Council

Everyone is welcome to the first meeting of the Social Justice Council (SJC) this fall which will be held on *Saturday, 9/15, at 9am in the Parlor of the Parish House.*

Join us if you would like to suggest a social justice activity for the coming year, are interested in helping to plan our activities for this year, or are just curious about how the SJC works to support our congregation's chosen focus on "Protecting Vulnerable Communities."

The Hingham Food Pantry especially needs donations of back-to-school snacks, red pasta sauce, mac 'n cheese and canned soups and stews as they prepare for the September Pantries. Donations of any of these or other non-perishable foods can be left in the collection box at the entrance to the Parish House or can be dropped off at the collection centers around town located at Stop and Shop on 3A, the offices of Coldwell Banker 56 South St and Jack Conway 321 Main St. The Hingham Food Pantry which serves 175 Hingham families greatly appreciates the support Old Ship has given over the last many years!

Interested in welcoming immigrants to our area and helping them learn English? Through South Shore Action, Old Shippers are helping prepare lunches and bring them to share food and conversation with English language students at the International Institute of New England (downtown Boston) on a monthly basis. You can help by providing ingredients, helping prepare and pack the bag lunches, and/or go into Boston for the lunchtime sharing of food and conversation. Lunch prep begins at 9:15 am, the group leaves for Boston around 11 am and is back by 2:45 pm (and some meet the group at the IINE office on Washington Street from noon-1:30pm). This Fall the dates are: Thursday, September 20th; Thursday, October 18th; Tuesday, November 13th and Wednesday December 19th. If you would like to help with any part, please contact Meg Glazer (megglazer@gmail.com) or 617-290-6322

Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?

Find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators...

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

All are invited to a nationwide Rise for Climate, Jobs, Immigrant Rights, and Justice this Saturday, September 8, at noon at East Boston Memorial Park, 143 Porter Street, East Boston. This is part of a nation-wide Rise for Climate action day. Details at [riseforclimate.org](http://riseforclimate.org).

### 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](http://www.oldshipchurch.org). Here are the first two classes of our 2018-19 year, and notes concerning two of our ongoing groups:

#### **The Bible and Earth Care, three sessions, Wednesdays September 19 - October 3, 7:00, led by Ken Read-Brown**

There are many perspectives from which to read the Bible. In this era of climate change and other environmental challenges, we will explore passages and stories in the Bible - from Genesis through the Gospels - that may offer guidance and/or challenge as we reflect on how best to care for our Earth home. Along the way, we'll learn more about the Bible more generally as well. For more information and to sign up, contact Ken (oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

#### **Spring Poetry in the fall: Poetry Alive three sessions, October 17, 24, and November 7 1:00 and 7:00 - led by Elizabeth Torrey and Ken Read-Brown**

For our annual poetry class, this year postponed from the spring, we will be listening to a wide variety of poems in the voices of the poets themselves as well as in the voices of ordinary folks

reading and reflecting upon their favorite poems. For more info and to sign up, contact Ken (oldshipkrb@gmail.com).

**The Way of the Bodhisattva - first and third Sun. mornings 8:30**

Half an hour of sitting meditation, followed by an hour conversation based on a Buddhist text. This is a good time to join this group, since we are beginning a new book: Fear by Thich Nhat Hanh. Newcomers warmly welcomed to our gatherings - no previous experience with Buddhism needed. For more info contact Ken Read-Brown.

**Ceilidh ("kay-lee") - monthly, first Tuesday evenings: new time 7:00**

Sharing of songs, stories, poems... and an old-fashioned good time. Bring an instrument if you have one or just bring yourself to listen and maybe sing along. Everyone is welcome. Come anytime between 7:00 and 9:30.

Other ongoing groups and gatherings....

[Click here](#) to be directed to 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.

**The Old Ship Church Memorial Garden Beckons YOU!**

Have you ever considered having your name engraved on the walkway next to the Memorial Garden? The garden, located on the northwest side of the Meeting House, was designed to serve as the repository for ashes (cremains) and as a space for quiet reflection. Internment is available only to Church Members and Friends, and to families of Members and Friends. Names of those interred, and others commemorated by family, may be engraved on the stone walkway. (There are fees involved.) The engraver is scheduled to come to the garden once per year in the fall. If interested, please contact Lorraine Varney Riggs at lgvarneyriggs@verizon.net or (781) 925-2726.

**Summer Meetinghouse Tours**

If tour guides had been paid for serving Old Ship in extreme weather, we'd all be rich! Some days were just reading days, but visitors did come, even on hot days, and from all over: The Netherlands; Dublin, Ireland; Hamm and Munich, Germany; Paris; Bristol, England; Bergen, Norway; and Denmark; and from 28 of the 50 states. An unexpected bonus was the



fascination of watching earth-moving equipment tearing out old cemetery plantings on the bank and replacing them with new, and building an extension of the stone wall between our properties.

Charlotte Champagne, Ursula Stone, Rick Butterworth, Nina Price, Rick Mattila, Jane Malme, Penny Baltera, and Fan Leonard were veterans, and new guides (hooray!) were Barbara Ganem, Ellen Adle, Stan Benulis, Eva Marx, and Diane Walcott. Thanks to them for their time and enthusiasm. And one more thing: the HELP WANTED sign is always out. Call Fan Leonard at 781-749-2852.



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

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