

## Serving Others

### News from the Social Justice Council

*Next SJC Meeting is Saturday, April 3, at 9 a.m. Please contact [Davalene Cooper](#) for the Zoom link. All are welcome to join us in supporting social justice service and action at Old Ship.*

### **Update: How Might We More Directly Support the UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)?** — We are

excited that so many of you stayed after our worship service on March 7 with the Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Executive Director of UUUM. We learned how the Urban Ministry is managing during the pandemic and began to explore ways we at Old Ship might be more involved. This is one of the ways we are discussing how to be engaged more deeply and directly in anti-racism work. We have decided a first step once we are able to engage in person with the UUUM will be to arrange for a tour of its campus in Roxbury. Who doesn't love field trips?! Stay tuned for details when we are free from COVID-19 restrictions.

During the discussion, we learned the Urban Ministry has a program where a suburban UU congregation arranges a Zoom program with an artist of color and makes available opportunities to purchase art from that specific artist. We are working on participating in this program here at Old Ship. We know from past experience how much our community supports artists and their works. So again, stay tuned for more details as we make these arrangements.

**Fair Foods Update** — Before the pandemic, several Old Shippers participated in the Fair Foods distribution at the UUUM. Fair Foods is no longer holding a packaging and distribution event at UUUM. And Fair Foods has had to adopt new procedures due to COVID 19. However, Fair Foods is still packaging and distributing food throughout the Boston area. Current procedures require volunteer groups to contact Fair Foods directly rather than just showing up to a site. This helps ensure that they have an exact count of people that will be working with them. Additionally, the First Parish Church of Dorchester is no longer a bag assembly site, though it is currently open for the purchase of bags from 2:00 to 4:00 pm every Friday afternoon. You may learn more about Fair Foods at [Fair Foods Website](#).

**Special Plate Collection for April: SOLA** — We have decided to support SOLA, a boarding school in Afghanistan, for our April special plate collection. The founder of SOLA, Shabana Basij-Rasikh, spoke at one of our Meeting House Forums a couple of years ago. She is an advocate for girls' education in Afghanistan and globally. She grew up under Taliban rule but managed to get an education at great



risk to her and her family, and was able to go to Middlebury for college. After graduating, she went back to Afghanistan to found SOLA as a way to help her country, its women, and all Afghans. SOLA is a boarding school in Kabul for about 80 girls from all over Afghanistan, many from Taliban controlled areas where girls are not allowed to be educated. Roughly 63% of Afghan girls are illiterate. [SOLA's website](#) describes the school and Shabana. There is a page there which describes how donations can pay for tuition, security, books, etc. You can also find [some videos on the school](#). Shabana, her faculty, the students, and their families are all very brave, and their stories are compelling. Shabana will join us for our April 4 worship service. She will speak briefly about SOLA before the offering and she will join us for our coffee hour time after the service to answer questions about her school and its accomplishments. This seems to us to be an important time to support the education of girls in Afghanistan.

You may make your donation [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to SOLA or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with SOLA designated on the memo line. We thank all of you for your support of special collections during the pandemic!

We also want to thank everyone for their support of our January and February special place collections. We raised \$3369.39 for Renewal House in January and \$1739.62 for Honduras Hope in February. Our congregation has been incredibly generous with our special plate collections this year--and this is a year where the needs of the organizations we support has also been great! THANK YOU ALL!

**Have you heard about the 8th Principle Project?** — There is a group of UUs proposing a new 8th Principle for our statement of UU Principles. Here is the text of the proposed 8th Principle: “We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.” We are considering this as a possible focus for our social justice work at Old Ship. We will be sponsoring a forum later this spring on this topic. In the meantime, you may learn more at [The 8th Principle of Unitarian Universalism \(8thprincipleuu.org\)](http://The8thPrincipleofUnitarianUniversalism(8thprincipleuu.org)).

**Hingham Food Pantry** — The food pantry continues to collect non-perishable food items on the following dates: Monday, April 12 and 26, from 2:30-4 p.m. and Wednesday, April 14 and 28, from 12:30-2 p.m. General food items needed include cookies, crackers, granola bars, canned beef stew, canned spaghetti, tuna, pasta sauce, white rice, mac & cheese, and hearty canned soups. Donations also can be dropped off at Stop and Shop (large bin located at the front of the store, near the customer service area).

**Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group** — We will meet on Sunday, April 11, at 7 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss Toni Morrison's novel, *The Bluest Eye*. Our last two books for this church year are as follows: May 16, at 7 p.m. Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns*, and June 13, at 7 p.m. Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*.

**Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network** — Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, and participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.