

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council

Next SJC Meeting is Saturday, March 13, at 9 a.m. Please contact [Davalene Cooper](#) for the Zoom link.

Honduras Hopes is the February Special Plate Collection Recipient.

Last year, we heard from Hingham residents Peter and Kathy Swanson, who are board members of Honduras Hopes, a New Hampshire based non-profit that works on issues related to health, education, and entrepreneurship in rural Honduras. (Some Old Shippers have purchased baskets made by women in one of the organization's empowerment programs). The community supported by Honduras Hopes has been especially hard hit by two hurricanes that hit the country in a two week period and by COVID-19. We decided to support this organization again this year, given its importance to the lives of the people it serves and the crisis in which it now confronts. You can learn more about the organization at <https://www.hondurashope.org/>. Kathy Swanson will be with us at our service on February 14 to briefly update us on their situation.

You may make your donation [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to Honduras Hopes or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with Honduras Hopes designated on the memo line.

Thanks for your support of our special collections this church year. We have donated a total of \$6573.01 to the UUSC's Guest at Your Table Program (December Special Plate), \$2,229.37 to the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore (November Special Plate), and \$1925 to the Hingham Food Pantry (October Special Plate). We also collected \$3144.44 at our Christmas Eve offering to be shared equally between Wellspring, UU Urban Ministry, and UUSC. We are deeply appreciative of all of these donations to continue our support of social justice work during the pandemic!

Hingham Food Pantry

The food pantry continues to collect non-perishable food items on the following dates: Monday, February 1 and 15, from 2:30-4 p.m. and Wednesday, February 3 and 17, from 12:30-2 p.m. General food items needed include cookies, 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).

Thank You to our Father Bill's Cooking Teams

The six teams of volunteers from Old Ship and the surrounding community have continued to "Serve Others" throughout this pandemic year by providing nutritious meals for the residents at the Father Bill's Shelter in Quincy. With COVID-19 social distancing protocols, the Father Bill's is providing shelter for 60 adults experiencing homelessness along with 3 meals each day. Due to COVID-19, the teams can no longer meet at the shelter and serve their meal and instead are dropping off enough food for 120. The shelter is able to use the extra a lunch that week. For the team members who are working at home alone to prepare the meals, the smiles and big Thank You from the shelter cook say how much the efforts (and delicious meals) of the cooking teams are appreciated in these difficult times.

Currently our six teams are well staffed but if a family wants to help out, Father Bill's can always use donations of 30 bagged lunches. Check out the Bag Lunch information at [Father Bills-Mainspring Bag Lunches](#) and then contact the volunteer coordinator Mary Ann Mendes at mmendes@helpfbms.org if you would like to participate. Other ways of helping can be found at [Ways to Help- Father Bills-Mainspring](#)

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group

We will meet on Sunday, February 21, at 7 p.m. via Zoom, to discuss Colson Whitehead's Pulitzer Prize winning novel, *The Underground Railroad*. If you would like to join our discussion, contact [Davalene Cooper](#) for the Zoom link. Also, for your reference, here is our schedule for the remainder of the church year.

March 21, at 7 p.m. David Gramm, *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*

April 11, at 7 p.m. Toni Morrison, *The Bluest Eye*

May 16, at 7 p.m. Isabel Wilkerson, *The Warmth of Other Suns*

June 13, at 7 p.m. Michelle Alexander, *The New Jim Crow*

Also, the Hingham Unity Council has announced it is sponsoring a community wide book group for this spring. The first book is "Waking Up White" by Debbie Irving, and the discussion is scheduled for February 9. For more information, go to [Community Book Read & Discussion Series: Waking Up White - Hingham Unity Council](#).

Coming March 7: How Old Ship Can More Directly Support the UU Urban Ministry?

We are excited to announce that our worship Service on March 7 will feature the Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, who is sharing the service with our minister, Ken Read-Brown. Immediately following the service, we will have an opportunity to learn more about the programs of the UUUM. This Forum has been scheduled as a follow-up to our fall discussion regarding Old Ship's interest in engaging more deeply and directly in antiracism work. Mark your calendars now!

UU Church of the Larger Fellowship Prison Ministry Program--Be a Pen Pal

The CLF's Worthy Now Prison Network provides an opportunity to live out our Unitarian Universalist values by connecting UUs in prison with a pen pal. Most CLF members in prison are new to Unitarian Universalism and learned about the CLF from friends or cellmates. With no access to the web or UU Sunday services, people who are incarcerated can only learn about Unitarian Universalism from the mailings we send them and the letters they exchange with our staff and other Unitarian Universalists like you! The program matches CLF members who are incarcerated with UUs who live in the free world. For a minimum of six months, you will exchange friendly letters on topics of mutual interest. For more information, visit their website at

[Letter Writing Ministry - Worthy Now Prison Ministry Network](#).

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.