

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

Our next meeting is Saturday, March 19, at 9

a.m. on Zoom. Contact [Davalene Cooper](#), if you need the Zoom link.



February's Special Plate Collection is for Boston Health Care for the Homeless –

This program provides comprehensive health care to over 11,000 homeless individuals each year. BHCHP provides care without regard to race, color, religion, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, veteran status, military service, national origin, immigration status, genetic information or marital status. The layered crises of the COVID pandemic and the overdose epidemic have strained this program like never before, and our help is especially needed at this time. You can learn more about BHCHP at [Boston Health Care for the Homeless Program](http://BostonHealthCarefortheHomelessProgram.org) | (bhchp.org). Cheryl Kane, a long-time nurse with BHCHP, will be at our Sunday service on February 13 to tell us more about the organization. The plate collection that day will be donated to BHCHP.

This is important work, which we are honored to support. You may make your donation [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to Outreach or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with BHCHP designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Special Plate Collections Update: Thanks to the congregation for the generous support of our special plate collections this year. In October, we donated \$3398.30 to the International Institute for New England's Afghan Resettlement Program. In November, we donated \$1156.62 to Free., a ministry that provides feminine hygiene products to woman and girls. In December, we donated \$4937.39 to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's Guest at Your Table program. In addition, our Christmas Eve Offering of \$4,568.22 was evenly split between UUSC, Father Bill's and Urban Ministry (\$1,522.74 each). These donations mean so much in a world where the need is so great. Thank you for your support!

Hingham Food Pantry – We are again collecting food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry. The food pantry only accepts non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food. There is a basket in the vestibule of the Meeting House for donations. Donations may also be left in the bins in the vestibule of the Parish House (front door) anytime the office is open. ***Donations may also be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop (large bin at the front of the store).*** Although all donations are appreciated, the food pantry reports that the following items are most needed at this time: Beef Stew, 1lb or 2lb bags of granulated sugar, Cookies, Peanut

Butter, and 64oz Juices. Checks to support the food pantry can be sent to Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main St., Hingham, MA 02043.

We thank everyone who donated 424 pounds of food to the Hingham Food Pantry in November and December.

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group – We will next meet on Sunday, February 20, on Zoom, at 7 p.m. For both our February and March 20 sessions, we will be discussing *The 1619 Project: A New Origin Story*, created by Nikole Hannah-Jones. Patti Smith will be leading our discussion of this important book. The February session will cover pages 1-246 and the March session will cover pages 249-480. For more information or if you have questions, contact [Davalene Cooper](#). This group is open to all who are interested in learning more about racism and its impact on our nation, past and present. It is a drop-in group so members may attend whatever book discussions they are most interested in. Here is the [Zoom link](#) for the February meeting: <https://zoom.us/j/96947272743?pwd=OWpNOVQ2VWI3ZkJKL1NucXA3VkNvdz09>.

Mark your calendars for our May meeting which will focus on **A Conspiracy of Mothers** by Colleen Van Niekerk (2021). The novel explores South Africa's racial classifications during apartheid, the government's construct of whiteness, and how those classifications affected laws and practices related to sexual assault. Patti has made arrangements for the author to join us for our discussion. To accommodate Colleen's schedule, we will meet at 4 p.m. on Wednesday, May 11 on Zoom. Thanks Patti! And what an exciting event to hear from the author herself!

UUA's Side with Love Campaign – This is an advocacy campaign seeking to harness the power of love to work for justice and stop oppression in its many forms. You can learn more about the campaign and sign up to receive updates on how to participate at [Side With Love](#).

Afghan Resettlement Work Continues

Massachusetts has doubled the number of Afghan evacuees now expected to arrive in the Commonwealth. The six resettlement organizations now expect to serve about 2000 evacuees. If you would like to help with this effort, Old Ship has supported the work of the International Institute for New England; you may find out more about their work at [Home - International Institute of New England \(iine.org\)](#). There is also a local group through South Shore Action that is working with the Refugee and Immigrant Assistance Center (R.I.A.C.) in Boston. This group needs help in a variety of ways--filling welcome baskets, donating furniture and appliances, offering transportation, helping with the grocery shopping, and

finding affordable housing. For more information or to volunteer or provide financial support, contact [Ann McCarthy-Egan](#), [Meg Glazer](#) or [Deb Emmett-Pike](#).

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.

Honduras Hope: We received the following update from Kathy Swanson about Honduras Hope. Pictures will be posted on the church bulletin board in Fellowship Hall.

To the Congregation of the Old Ship Church, Hingham:

First of all, I want to thank you for your past support of Honduras Hope. In the last few years you have supported us by providing funding for our high school scholarship program, for our girls empowerment program, and for rebuilding houses after the hurricanes in the fall of 2020. Also this past year you helped us rebuild the sewer and water pipelines that were also destroyed during the hurricanes of 2020.

During the pandemic, our programs have continued, due to the diligence of our local Honduran leaders. Our clinic remained open even while Covid crippled the area and hospitals were overwhelmed. We developed and expanded our tutoring program so that high school students could participate in online classes. And throughout the pandemic we provided food relief for both our communities, buying cornmeal, rice, beans and lard. These programs and food distribution were possible because of the continued donations of our US partners but also due to the hard-work of our in-country coordinator, our nurse and our education committee chair.

The future looks bright. In November 2021, Hondurans elected a new leader, the first woman president, Xiomara Castro. She is a social progressive, committed to improving the living conditions for the poor and distributing government funds to the areas of society who need it most. There are high expectations for her, one of several Latin American leaders recently elected who are determined to change the old guard of using government to become wealthy.

With the election of the new government there is hope in the air. People feel that they have been heard and that they have a future. Our young students feel this new hope and we must prepare them for the upcoming opportunities. They must be technologically ready. The pandemic taught us the importance of the internet and the need for online access. Our goal for this year is to wire our community and provide ipads for the high school students. Although ipads don't sound as impactful as food, medicine and clothing, they are a necessary instrument for the future, much like books, pens and pencils were in the past. With your help we want

to equip the students with the learning tools they need; we hope to build a student body who believe in their hopes and dreams for a fruitful future. If you would like to help us with providing online access for our students, donations can be made either through our website, <http://www.hondurashope.org>, or by mail at Honduras Hope (make checks payable to Honduras Hope), P.O. Box 60, Franconia, NH 03580.

As we say in Honduras Hope: *Juntos, todo es posible.*