

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC) *Our next meeting is Saturday, January 8, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Contact [Davalene Cooper](#), if you need the Zoom link.*



January's Special Plate Collection is for Renewal

House — Old Ship has supported Renewal House, one of the programs of the UU Urban Ministry for many years. As a reminder, here is the description of Renewal House from the UUUM website: Renewal House is a domestic violence shelter for individuals and families who are fleeing violence or abuse. Since 1980, Renewal House has provided temporary emergency shelter and advocacy services to more than 1,000 individuals and families escaping domestic violence. Renewal House was one of the first domestic violence shelters in the state to provide shelter for male survivors as well as female, and is sought out by other agencies for its expertise in attending to the spiritual needs of survivors. Renewal House works closely with other programs that serve the LGBTQ communities, as well as those that serve elders and individuals with disabilities to provide the best support we can to these under-served populations

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 Renewal House or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with Renewal House designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

Hingham Food Pantry — From the Hingham Food Pantry to its supporters: "HAPPY HOLIDAYS!! Thank you all for your extremely generous contributions this holiday season! HFP is now in the extremely fortunate position of being fully stocked in non-perishables which will last well beyond our December Holiday Distribution. Thanks to you all we do NOT currently need additional non-perishables through the end of January. Wishing you a safe and joyful holiday season." As a result, we will begin collecting non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food for the Hingham Food Pantry as part of our Sunday morning worship service later in January. We will update this information through the weekly Constant Contact. We thank all of you for being part of filling up the shelves of the food pantry!

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will next meet on Sunday, January 16, on Zoom, at 7 p.m. We will be discussing Nicole Chung's memoir, "All You Can Ever Know" (2018). Patti Smith will be leading our discussion. 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 January meeting.

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.

Old Ship Elves -- Thank You!

This year, for the first time, Old Ship adopted for Christmas ten families being served by the Friends of the Homeless on the South Shore. Those ten families included 36 men, women, and children. The hope was that each adoptee would receive three gifts--and we accomplished that task and then some! We delivered more than 108 gifts to the Friends, who then delivered the gifts to our ten families, as well as to all the others they serve. Some of these families are currently living in shelters and others have just moved into more permanent housing. The Friends were grateful for our contributions and thank all of you who participated. Thanks so much for making the holidays for these families brighter and merrier! On a more personal note, I was so moved by the phone and email conversations I had with many of you as you were deciding what gifts to buy, based on the list each of them had submitted. The thoughtfulness each of you brought to this selection process was inspiring--and the joy you expressed at being able to help someone else during the holidays was overwhelming! Thank you all.

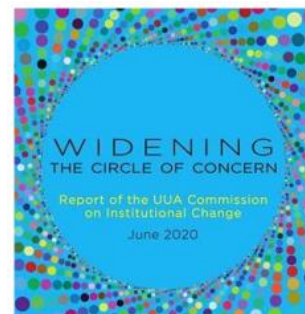


We hope next year the Friends will be able to have the holiday dinner that we at Old Ship have been a part of for years. And if the dinner can happen, we will support it. BUT we are planning to again adopt ten families next year as well. We just want to repeat all the joy we gave and received through our work as elves! Again, thanks to all of you! And a special thanks to Carol Valentine and Louise Smith who helped me organize and deliver the gifts!

--Davalene Cooper

New Old Ship Task Force on Widening the Circle—Would you like to join us in this work?

Imagine an Old Ship community where all who come here feel fully welcomed and free to join in all our activities and programs. What would that Old Ship community look like? How would we create such diversity? How would this atmosphere of radical welcome



change us as a community? What hidden obstacles, or perhaps overt obstacles, get in the way of someone feeling truly welcomed here?

These are some of the questions this new task force will consider as it reviews “Widening the Circle of Concern,” a report issued in June 2020 from the UUA Commission of Institutional Change. This Commission was charged “to conduct an audit of the power structures and analyze systemic racism and white supremacy within the Unitarian Universalist Association.” The report makes findings and recommendations regarding the problems of racism and white supremacy within Unitarian Universalism. The report itself is grounded in the premise that our faith is calling us “into living the fullness of the theology we inherit and proclaim.”

Last spring at our annual meeting, we unanimously affirmed that “the major focus of the social justice effort at Old Ship for the next three years will be centered around issues of racism, white supremacy, and climate change. This task force is a crucial step in dismantling white supremacy and any other obstacles that get in the way of welcoming everyone to Old Ship. Our work is to study the report, ask questions about our Old Ship community, and then make recommendations as to how we might create a more beloved community at Old Ship—a community grounded in our theology of love and acceptance.

The Task Force is open to any person in our community who would like to be like to be a part of this work. To join us, or if you have questions about this effort, contact Davalene Cooper, Chair of the Task Force, at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-749-0790.