

News from the Social Justice Council—

(Note that our Annual Report has been posted on the Old Ship website at <https://oldshipchurch.org/newsletters-and-annual-reports.html>)

Hingham Pride Project

The mission of the Hingham Pride Project is to “increase LGBTQ+ visibility in Hingham and raise funds for organizations that provide community programs and activities for LGBTQ+ youth.” The organization is planning to blanket Hingham with rainbow flags for the month of June. You may sign up to receive a 3ft x 5ft Pride flag to display during the month of June to show your support to the LGBTQ+ community.

The flag can be hung with both a sleeve and grommet based flag pole. Flags are only available to Hingham addresses. You can sign up for a flag at <https://www.hinghamprideproject.com/signup>.

Flags will be delivered as early as the last weekend in May 2020 and will be picked up by the end of the first weekend in July. If you don't have a place to display the flag, you may request a Hingham pride static window cling.

UU the Vote

The UUA has launched a new initiative for the 2020 elections. The “UU the Vote” webpage and resources can be found at <https://www.uua.org/liberty/electionreform>. We will consider how Old Ship might participate in this initiative as the year progresses. Contact Davalene Cooper, davalenecooper@verizon.net, if you have ideas for us at Old Ship.

Green Sanctuary

As Old Ship works to find ways to “Green” our parish house and reduce our carbon footprint and impact on climate change, we invite to consider and perhaps try new ways to reduce your personal carbon footprint. Hingham Net Zero, a citizen's group working to reduce the town's carbon footprint, has prepared a series of presentations and other materials to help residents learn how they can adopt a low carbon lifestyle and electric technologies thereby dramatically reducing personal/family carbon emissions. Anyone is welcome to go to the Hingham Net Zero website where you will find a menu of “What You Can Do Now” links to informational presentations as well as announcements of upcoming Zoom Chats on these topics <https://www.hinghamnetzero.org/>.

We are looking for new leadership for Green Sanctuary. There are many aspects to the Green Sanctuary program—climate change issues, recycling issues, making sure our buildings at Old Ship are as green as possible. If this sounds like something you, or a group of you, would like to do, or to learn more about what is required, please contact Davalene Cooper, chair of SJC for the new church year.

Thank You from recipients of our help—

Thanks for your contributions to our February special plate collection; we collected \$923.00 for Honduras Hopes. We also recently received several lovely thank you notes for our special plate collections from No More Deaths, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), Mass Climate Action Network, and Honduras Hopes. These donations may seem small

in amount, but they are greatly appreciated by the organizations we identify for our support. Most of our recipients are small organizations where our support is critical to their successes.

In April, we shared information about how Old Shippers could buy baskets from Honduras Hopes for Mother's Day. We received the following message from Kathy Swanson. The baskets sold very well. In two weeks I sold 25 baskets....much more than I expected. The people of Old Ship responded enthusiastically and I truly appreciate your support. It was very timely that I sold those baskets. Our communities in Honduras are suffering.....food is scarce and money to buy food is even more scarce. We are sending food relief twice a month, so the proceeds from the baskets are directed towards that effort. Please let the Old Ship community know of our appreciation for their continued support

Under the Same Moon: This organization was part of our craft fair in October. The group supports a school and its families in Guatemala. Not surprising during this time, the ability of the organization to raise funds through the sales of Guatemalan handicrafts has largely evaporated.

As you can imagine, things are difficult in Guatemala right now. The government has closed all the schools, shut down all public transportation, severely limited the hours when stores are open. Many people are laid off. Families do not have enough to eat. The director of the school, Julio, arranged for food packages for 285 of the families from the school for the last two months, and is planning a third distribution in June. Under the Same Moon contributed to the cost and is raising funds to keep the school functioning.

If you would like to learn more about the school, or donate to its support, please go to its Facebook site at [UTSM Guatemala](#), or sign up for their newsletter at <http://www.underthesamemoon.org>.

Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, participating in educational/advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at davalenecooper@verizon.net. Also, if you have an action alert to share, contact Davalene Cooper and she will send it out, as long as it meets our criteria. (If it doesn't, she will discuss it with you.)

During this pandemic, the Social Justice Council invites you to continue to Serve Others and protect vulnerable populations by helping in any of the following ways. We will provide updates to this list on the Old Ship website.

Local Food Pantries

The **Hingham Food Pantry** is accepting food donations on the following dates over the summer:

Mondays, June 1st, June 15th, June 29th, July 13th, July 27th, August 3rd, August 17th and August 31st from 2:30 to 4 p.m.

Wednesdays, June 3rd, June 17th, July 1st, July 15th, July 29th, August 5th and August 19th from 12:30 to 2 p.m.

The pantry most needs the following foods at this time:

- Canned spaghetti
- Canned fruit
- Grape or strawberry jelly
- Healthy cereals
- Peanut butter or cheese cracker sandwiches
- Granola bars
- White rice
- Beans and canned stews

Donations can be left in the carts outside the pantry (behind 2nd Parish) during the above times. Alternatively, you can order donations online via [Instacart.com](https://www.instacart.com). Any such orders should be sent to Brooke Bartletta (note the “t” in Bartletta), 52 Fearing Road, Hingham, MA 02043.

Monetary donations are also always welcome. Checks may be made out and mailed to: Hingham Food Pantry, 685 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043 or Venmo @Brooke-Bartletta (note the “t” in Bartletta) with a note of Hingham Food Pantry in the “What’s It For” section. Brooke will provide Hingham Food Pantry with a check.

**The Hingham Food Pantry would like to offer help to any local family who may need assistance during this difficult time. Please help get the word out that should anyone need help, please call the Pantry at 781-740-8180.

The **Weymouth Food Pantry** is accepting monetary donations to allow purchases of the foods needed at this time when their usual supply of rescued foods from grocery stores is severely reduced. <https://www.weymouthfoodpantry.org/donation-page>

Aunt Dot’s Kitchen, the Wellspring food pantry in Hull needs some extra help. They need non-perishable foods, as well as fresh produce. Gift cards to supermarkets and monetary donations are especially helpful and greatly appreciated. To donate, go to <https://wellspringmultiservice.org/donate/>

Meals for Homeless Individuals- an opportunity for a family or small group

Father Bill’s/Mainspring has opened a new temporary shelter for homeless men in the Quincy YMCA. They need groups or individuals to assemble 50-100 individual bag lunches offsite and deliver them to Father Bill’s. For information: <https://helpfbms.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Bagged-Lunches-April-2020.pdf>

There is a group from Glastonbury Abby making lunches on Tuesdays and they could use a few more people to help. If you are interested, contact Davalene Cooper and she will put you in touch with the group: davalenecooper@verizon.net

Father Bill’s also needs cash donations to meet the additional services it is providing during this time of crisis. To donate or explore other ways you can help, go to <https://helpfbms.org/support/coronavirus/>.

Medical Care for the Homeless

Boston Health Care for the Homeless: People experiencing homelessness are especially susceptible to the COVID19 virus. This organization has been providing health care to the homeless in Boston for more than 30 years. Now, they are now screening and testing patients for the virus, operating two new medical tents and other facilities. These efforts will lead to losses of about a million dollars during this crisis, so cash donations are needed. To donate or learn more about these efforts, go to <https://www.bhchp.org/covid-19-response-efforts>.

Helping Low Income and Homeless Children

Cradles to Crayons in Boston has established an Emergency Essentials Fund to help its community partners meet urgent needs for new diapers, school and art supplies, hygiene items and other essentials for children. The Emergency Essentials Fund will allow them to leverage their logistics expertise and bulk purchasing power and serve thousands of families in need. For more information or to donate online, go to <https://www.cradlestocrayons.org/boston/>.

Cloth Masks Needed: if you can sew, directions available on the internet

The predominantly Spanish speaking population in Chelsea has been hit particularly hard by COVID-19, and mask requests are being met with door to door delivery. Contact Laurie Ann Yeisley-Drogin for details on where to mail the masks so they reach those most in need them: giraffe@drogin.net

Helping the UUUM meet needs of the domestic violence survivors and youth

UUUM (UU Urban Ministry) is requesting donations to their Emergency Fund to help meet the needs of the domestic violence survivors and youth they serve: funds will allow them to help with groceries and cleaning supplies, rent and utilities, and provide access to technologies to help them keep safe and connected. Donations can be made through this link [Your support](#) or by check (send to UUUM Emergency Fund, 10 Putnam Street, Roxbury, MA 02119).