

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council

The next SJC Meeting will be in late summer. All are welcome to join us in supporting social justice service and action at Old Ship. Please contact [Davalene Cooper](#) if you are not currently a member of the SJC and would like to be informed of the time and date for the next meeting.

Proposed New Focus for Social Justice Efforts at Old Ship — At our Annual Meeting on May 16, 2021, the SJC will be recommending that the congregation decide whether the major focus of our social justice work at Old Ship for the next three years will be centered around issues of racism, white supremacy, and climate change. This recommendation comes from our forum last fall, as well as other conversations this past year with the congregation, as to what our social justice focus should be for the next three years. If the congregation votes in favor of this focus, the SJC will then assist our Old Ship community in exploring these issues in the context of our personal lives, or institutional life at Old Ship, and in our communities more generally. Our goal will be to engage in and promote actions that will be consistent with creating a more beloved community for all peoples and for caring for the Earth. Please see our report in the Annual Report book for more discussion of this issue. Our Annual Report is also posted on the Old Ship website at [sjc annual report 2020-21.pdf \(oldshipchurch.org\)](#).

Special Plate Collection for May: Hingham Unity Council — We have decided to support the Hingham Unity Council for our last special plate collection of the church year. Hingham Unity Council (HUC) is a non-partisan group started by members of the Hingham community in fall 2019. The group focuses on developing programming to address core issues affecting Hingham, such as racial diversity, equity and inclusion, socioeconomic disparities and issues related to LGBTQIA+. This group is engaged in efforts supportive of our congregation's interest in anti-racism and white supremacy. You can learn more about the group at [Hingham Unity Council | Fostering a more diverse and inclusive community](#).

HUC use its donations to undertake the following types of activities and events: drive in movies with diverse cast/leading roles played by BIPOC actors (May will feature "42" with Chadwick Bozeman), developing a scholarship program for METCO students, continuation of the "Talk" series with discussions from BIPOC community members (one is planned for May on the experience of Asian-Americans in Hingham), fundraising/assistance for affordable housing initiatives in town, and providing candidate events focusing on racial and social justice issues. Finally, HUC is starting to plan with other towns in the South Shore Unity Council cultural events for all of the communities to enjoy. Discussions include the possibility of a pride event in June, a Loving Day and Juneteenth event, and a diverse South Shore arts festival. Whether these events take place this year will be dependent upon Covid restrictions. This past year, HUC provided blankets for METCO

students who were traveling to Hingham on buses with the windows open due to COVID concerns.

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

We also want to thank everyone for their support of our March special place collection. We raised \$1182.93 for the Holly Hill Farm Programs that raise fresh produce for food pantries on the South Shore. We will report on the donations to our April special plate recipient, SOLA, the leadership school for girls in Afghanistan, once we have closed out the donation period. We are holding SOLA, its students, and its staff, in our hearts and prayers as the situation in Afghanistan becomes increasingly fraught with danger, especially for women and girls.

Hingham Food Pantry — The food pantry continues to collect non-perishable food items on the following dates: Monday, May 10 and 24, from 2:30-4 p.m. and Wednesday, May 12 and 26, 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, 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). We also are planning to collect food in June as part of the Youth Group's Gay Pride Celebration at Old Ship. Details to follow closer to that date.

Anti-Racism "Drop-In" Book Group — We will meet on Sunday, May 16, at 7 p.m. to discuss Isabel Wilkerson's, *The Warmth of Other Suns*. Our final meeting for the church year will be on June 13, at 7 p.m. and we will discuss Michelle Alexander's book, *The New Jim Crow*. The book group will reconvene in September, meeting on the third Sunday of each month, except for December. For more information about next year, and to receive our information planning materials, contact [Davalene Cooper](#).

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.