



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
14 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679
office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

January 2025 Monthly Newsletter

Trouble viewing this email or want to print? [View as Webpage](#)

Deadline for February's newsletter: Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Multi-Platform:
Join us in-person in the Meeting House
or on Zoom

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

[Click here to join Sunday Worship!](#)



January Newsletter
Monthly theme:
Living Love Through the Practice of Story

SUNDAY SERVICES

January 5 Stories Matter Rev. Carie Johnsen
We are the authors of our lives. The stories we tell reveal what matters most and expresses the values we hold most dear. Come, listen, witness, see the world through the lens of a few Old Ship storytellers. This service will include a commissioning ceremony with the Transition Ministry Team.

January 12 If the Rafters Could Speak Rev. Carie Johnsen

Oh, if only the rafters could speak, what stories might they tell? Join us with holy imagination to ponder the possibilities.

January 19 His Ministry Lives On Rev. Carie Johnsen

In commemoration of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, we will reflect on the legacy of civil rights with an eye toward the justice making in contemporary time. In this service, I will reflect on my civil rights tour in Montgomery, Al in October with transitional ministry colleagues.

January 26 Hand in Hand Rev. Mary Margaret Earle, UU Urban Ministry
As we face the challenges of 2025, we reflect on the origins of our segregated communities and why we need solidarity to move ahead.

Reverend Mary Margaret Earl, Pulpit Guest

The Rev. Mary Margaret Earl has served as Executive Director and Senior Minister of the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry for 10 years. In this ministry, she works for racial justice and to strengthen connections between UUs and the Roxbury neighborhood where the UUUM operates. She has served on the leadership team of Moral Movement Massachusetts, the Roxbury Cultural Network, and the search committee for the Roxbury Community College president. Prior to her arrival at the UU Urban Ministry, she spent 10 years at a faith-based nonprofit in RI serving the homeless community, She is past president of the Board of the Rhode Island Coalition for the Homeless, recipient of the Heroes of Faith Award from the Rhode Island State Council of Churches for her interfaith work, and received a Courage of Conscience award from the Peace Abbey in Sherborn, MA. She is a longtime *vegan* committed to standing up for nonhuman animals.



EVERYDAY ORDINARY THEOLOGIES

From the desk of Rev. Carie

The Soul Matters theme for January is *Living Love Through the Practice of Story*. Our services this month will build on each week and culminate in a community gathering on February 1st when we lift up a story of Old Ship. Our services will invite deep listening as we witness congregants and a congregation telling their stories.



As we animate the history, memories and values that are most important, I invite you to share your stories with family and friends throughout the month. In remembering, imagining, crafting, and sharing our life experiences, we make meaning of the life we've lived, the legacies we've inherited, and the future yet to unfold. Speak of joys and success. Don't be afraid to look at the uncomfortable moments. Storytelling with a trusted companion offers a healing balm. A time of reweaving the threads of a tapestry, repairing the rough patches, and celebrating the triumphs of life.

As you contemplate and share, I invite you to pay attention and curiously

engage. Go a bit deeper. Consider engaging one of the following prompts:

- What story are you choosing to tell? Why this one?
- What story are you choosing not to tell? Why?
- Who is being left out of the story? Who was impacted by the story? Where does power and privilege reside?
- Ask yourselves, Is this my story to tell? If not, ask yourself, why am I telling it? What purpose does it serve to tell other people's stories?
- What emotion are you feeling in your body as you recall this experience? Is there something you need to do to move this emotion?
- Is there a story of forgiveness your heart and spirit are longing to resolve?
- Is there a justice story that you are wanting to live into? Imagine a storyline in which you do that.
- Create the epitaph on your grave then tell the story?
- Engage in holy imagination, return a difficult moment in your life, and retell the story with you as the resilient and wise hero.

Or keep it simple and social. As you meet in committees and affinity groups, light a chalice, share a moment of silence, and check-in with stories. Share little stories that reveal something about who you are. Honor each other through the practice of listening to see, hear, and understand the values expressed.

And finally, on behalf of the Transitional Ministry Team, you are invited to join us on **February 1, 2024 for a morning of storytelling. We will gather from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm at the Hingham Congregational Church** to create a congregational narrative of Old Ship. In community made sacred by our presence, in the company of beloved community, we will be weaving a community narrative to articulate, understand, and bear witness to the history of Old Ship, the people, culture, achievements, joy, grief and loss.

With love at the center,

Rev. Carie

RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org

Office phone 781-749-1679

Cell Phone 508-221-5295

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

January Board Update

The Board of Trustees met on December 5th for a monthly business meeting. Below are items of interest not noted elsewhere in the newsletter.



Building Committee: The new sound system in the Meeting House had its first run during the service on December 15th. Service attendees were amazed by the quality of the sound! A special thanks to Building Committee member Ron Pollara for all his effort to get this done. Janice McPhillips, our Building Committee liaison, reported that there are still more components that we need additional funding to pay for. That includes 3 new video cameras and 2 projectors. Current prices for those are approximately \$35,000. Our existing equipment will work with the new equipment until we can find funding for those new components. *Composting*

toilet: The overflow tank of the composting toilet leaked in November. Happily our amazing Sexton Mark Curran spotted this on one of his routine inspections. A service call was made which was our first since the installation of the “privy” eight years ago. We are considering doing an annual service contract for the privy, the cost of which is pending. *The Meeting House Heating System* also needed a repair in November. Due to its age, the system will continue to require frequent maintenance. *Board Votes:* The Board approved a \$11,000 bridge loan for the sound system to Friends of the Meeting House (FMH). This loan will be reimbursed when the sound system is paid for and the Greenbush grant when the FMH will repay the loan. The Board also voted to approve a request to use these funds for a portion of the sound system choir microphones as requested by the music committee and Elizabeth Torrey. Such funds will be sent to FMH.

Children’s Religious Education: Trish McAleer advised that we are continuing a search for a lead teacher for our Children’s Religious Education (CRE) program. Notices have been placed in the Old Ship newsletter and on the UUA jobs board. Thus far one candidate has had a preliminary interview and class visit. We hope to make a hire for this position in January.

Worship and Music Committee: Board Liaison Karen Churchill reported the following: The enhancement of Worship and Music Committee (WAM) has really made a difference. WAM meetings are thoughtful and creative and wonderful services are being created. The concept of *Worship Associate* has lightened the load of trying to sign up congregants every week for things like chalice lighting or readings. The calendar is full up until January and the multi services are organized and staffed. The tradition of Vespers was able to continue again this year. With Rev. Carie's strong leadership, WAM has become a cohesive and vigorous committee.

Together our church community has accomplished some major things in 2024. Just in the last year, we've welcomed our new minister, started our Community Building project and restarted our Children's Religious Education program. We are looking forward to another great year in 2025. As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions by emailing us at President@oldshipchurch.com

Best New Year's wishes,

Trish McAleer, President
Janice McPhillips, Vice President
Clayton Handleman, Treasurer
Elaine Cusker, Clerk
Karen Churchill, Dennis Hogan, Corey Fitz-Marquez; Trustees-at-large

Attention Families!
Join us for Children's Religious Education January 12th & 26th

We hope your kids will join us for Children's RE programming on Sunday, December 8th. Our kids will begin service in the Meeting House and then depart for a RE lesson up at 14 Main.



Social Action Sunday, January 26th

For all ages- children and youth / teens. Join us to work together to make sandwiches and pack 80+ individual bagged lunches for Father Bills / Mainspring Quincy Center, supporting people experiencing homelessness. They are so appreciative of these extra lunches for the people who stop in and use the services. In addition to having fun making the lunches, we will spend time getting to know each other and thinking, talking about future social justice projects we can take on together. We'd really like input from our participating children and youth! Please reach out to Trish McAleer, President@OldShipChurch.org

Pastoral Care Leadership Team

We are all on the pastoral care team, but our "Pastoral Care Leadership Team" meets each month to share any concerns about parishioners who are ill, in the hospital, or facing other significant challenges, and to coordinate responses. If you have a pastoral concern to share with our Team, please feel free to contact any member of the group:



[Ralph Brown](#)

[Liz Flint](#) 508-560-1572

[Elaine Gomez](#) 781 820 4077.

[Fan Leonard](#) 781-749-2852

[Claire Petrie](#) 617-642-2438

[Joan Wilson](#) 617-947-4664

[Louise Smith](#) 781-690-1165

[Carie Johnson](#) 508-221-5295

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

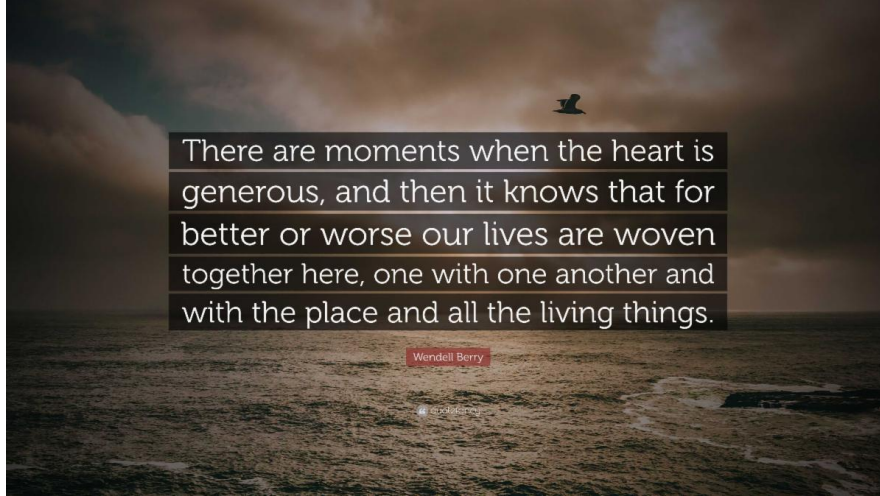
Another year has passed and it's hard to believe we're looking ahead to all 2025 will bring. Thank you to everyone involved with the Christmas Eve service, particularly the Old Ship Choir. Your voices always rise to the occasion. And thank you to everyone whose contributions in the background make everything run smoothly. The time and effort you contribute is appreciated throughout the year, but especially on Christmas Eve.



I'm looking forward to all the beautiful music that awaits us in 2025. See you in the New Year!

Musically,
Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS



Blessings on our year
giving us
TIME
for the
TASK

PEACE
for the
PATHWAY

WISDOM
for the
WORK

FRIENDS
for the
FIRESIDE

LOVE
to the
LAST

Syracuse Cultural workers postcard

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE!

responses always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com

12/24/2024 Update from the Community Space Team

The Community Space Team held a closed meeting with architect David Torrey and Landscape Architect Wes Wirth on December 16. Wes presented a draft site plan with a narrower driveway, which will leave more room for plantings and avoid the expense of relocating an existing fire hydrant on Main St.



David is in the process of rearranging the rooms on the second floor so the kitchen will have a window directly onto the Fellowship Hall. He showed us

several seating arrangements for the Fellowship Hall which suggest the capacity can increase above the initial 50 person estimate. These illustrated how the room could be set up to accommodate 48 to 64 people dining at tables, possibly as many as 68. If seats are arranged in rows without tables, it can fit 50 to 70, possibly as many as 112.

David also presented three size options for the elevator. The committee is leaning towards the middle size, to allow transport of food carts, chairs and tables and easily accommodate a stretcher in an emergency.

David told the Committee five toilets will be needed for occupancy over 100 and is working on the best way to accommodate these in accessible bathrooms. There will be bathrooms on the first and second floors.

The Community Space Committee is expecting to hold an open meeting on January 7 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom, after a new revision of the floor plans is received. We look forward to seeing you and hearing your thoughts.

We wish the congregation, Reverend Carie and the Old Ship staff a very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Please use the following link to join:

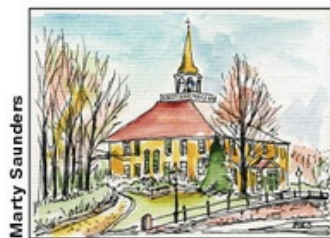
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85668053025?
pwd=aGL8YDwh6KmiaLbL69NAeD1prFqc4w.1](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85668053025?pwd=aGL8YDwh6KmiaLbL69NAeD1prFqc4w.1)

Meeting ID: 856 6805 3025

Passcode: 903535

The Community Space Team

Stuart Patterson, Facilitator; Ron Pollara, Jack Gomez, Elaine Gomez and Laura Harbottle



Life Learning
at Old Ship
2024 – 2025



Life Learning Offerings

Our Life Learning Committee has completed the schedule of classes and groups for 2024-2025.

[Please click here for the schedule.](#)

Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, January 7th at 7:00 p.m.** We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor as well as on Zoom. Email [Eric Cornetta](#) with any questions about Ceilidh. The zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92888235659>

The Gathering

The Gathering will meet **every Wednesday at 1:00p.m.** in 14 Main Street Parlor. All women are welcome! For info contact [Diane Elliott](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

Religious Right–Secular Left

Dennis Hogan, moderator

Six Wednesdays at 7:00 p.m., beginning January 8th

The terms “religious right” and “secular left” are used routinely in the media, politics, and elsewhere to describe our societal divide. In this course, we will explore these polarities: their origins, philosophy, rationale, and implications. We’ll look at the history, politics, and issues (from religious freedom to school funding, integration, abortion rights, government regulation, etc.). We’ll also look at the mythology around both concepts and how realistic it is to consider these groupings as cohesive entities. We’ll explore their impact on the current and future political conversation and how/whether they can co-exist. Readings will be from various journal articles and selections from books. Anyone interested in taking the class should contact Dennis Hogan at dennish104@verizon.net. [Click here for the zoom link](#)

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, January 9th

4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Zoom

Second and fourth Thursday afternoons

Each session will have a reading, a 15-minute meditation, and exploration of one chapter from the Tao Te Ching (including its meaning to each of us), as well as related writings, poetry or art. Newcomers are welcome. Gatherings will be Zoom only. For information and the Zoom link, contact [Rich Elliott](#).

Bodhisattva Study Group - Every **Sunday morning, 8:30 AM**. Zoom only.

Twenty minutes of sitting meditation followed by discussion of a Buddhist or related text, facilitated by members of the group. For questions and Zoom link, email [Lisa Sawyer](#).

Men’s Breakfast – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning of each month at **8:30 a.m.** in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. Our next gathering will meet on **Sunday, January 26**. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and a Zoom, link.

Rediscover the Meeting House One Sunday, January 26, 2025, 12:30 p.m.,

Meeting House, in-person Let’s go deeper behind the well-known facts about the Old Ship Meeting House. In this session, we’ll examine who worshiped here, how and why they changed the building, and how they influenced the development of our country. Led by members of the Friends of the Meeting House, this tour delves into the social and religious history of the Meeting House.

Fellowship Hour & Snacks

Fellowship Hour will be held at 14 Main Street. Last names beginning **A - H** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, January 5**. Some type of finger or toothpick food that can be placed on a napkin is best. We don’t have volunteers to hand wash dishes and are going to keep things simple. Please bring your food item ready to go. Food can be left in it’s box or served on a paper plate. Thanks everyone.



News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)



Our Next Meeting is **Saturday, January 4, at 9 a.m.** on Zoom. All are welcome! Here is the link to the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85059408242?pwd=tnOmlqQRSQSYS7QuG0XC0dOWedJ8Z6.1>

Social Justice Forum on the Anti-Racist Table on Sunday, January 19 at noon in the Parlor — The AntiRacist Table was created to educate Americans about African American history and the Black experience, along with rehumanizing Black people and motivating action to help create an AntiRacist America. Ultimately, the choice is up to us. Do we want to dismantle racism in ourselves, our families, our community, our schools, and our workplaces. For the past 6 months, four members of the Social Justice Council have been meeting to discuss issues regarding racism through this program, which has many interesting reading and video selections, as well as mindfulness exercises, and thoughtful questions to ponder. The group has taken more than 30 days to complete this project, and at this forum, Brenda Black, Ellie Handleman, Laura Harbottle, and Patti Smith will describe their experiences and invite member of the congregation to form their own discussion groups over the course of the church year. You can learn more about this program at [Help create an AntiRacist America- The AntiRacist Table](#).

Social Justice Forum on the UU Urban Ministry on Sunday, January 26 at noon in the Parlor — We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Mary Margaret Earl, Executive Director of the UU Urban Ministry, will be preaching at Old Ship on Sunday, January 26. Following the service, Rev. Mary Margaret and Maggie Paula, Development Associate at the Urban Ministry, will be available in the Parlor to answer questions and to let us know how we can continue our support of the Urban Ministry and its programs.

January Special Plate/Outreach Collection: Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry's Renewal House Shelter for Domestic Violence

Victims — Renewal House operates within a network of organizations providing safe, confidential shelter and healing services to those fleeing violence. Residents of the shelter receive counseling and support services throughout their stay at the shelter. Additionally, staff help those residents who are looking for permanent housing. Renewal House is unique in that it continues to support former residents long after they move on from shelter through individual services and group events. We at Old Ship have supported Renewal House for many years. In operation since 1980, Renewal House was one of the first domestic violence shelters in the state to provide shelter for male survivors, and now works closely with programs across Greater Boston to bring culturally-responsive and LGBTQ-inclusive advocacy and counseling to those it serves.

Donations can be made as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House on January 26, or at anytime throughout the month through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: Renewal House. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world.

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop In Book Group next meeting on January

19 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom — The book group does not meet in December. Our next meeting is in January when we will discuss the recent biography of the late Congressman John Lewis. This book, *John Lewis: In Search of the Beloved Community* by Raymond Arsenault is beautifully written and gives us a portrait of an amazing human being who made America a better place for his having lived among us. Here is the Zoom link for the book group discussion: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87635350951?pwd=tBrxOGuaJRz1HQNow1EvVh14qPZkui.1>

Hingham Food Pantry — This month, the food pantry is in need of the following items: cookies, healthy cereal, and pasta sauce. Items may be donated each week during Sunday services at the Meeting House or dropped off anytime the office is open at 14 Main Street. There also are drop off boxes for the food pantry at Stop & Shop, Jack Conway and Coldwell Banker.

UU Urban Ministry News — Community Conversations: Hidden Heroes - Stories of African American Veterans on January 9 from 6-7 p.m. on Zoom. Join historian Thomas Plant and educator Cheryl Brown-Greene (Roxbury Collaborative) as they tell the stories of African American veterans and the often unsung role they have played in U.S. history. Here is the Zoom information: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88360103125>.

Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East (UUJME)— Pursuant to the [UUA AIW: Solidarity with Palestinians](#), UUJME has shared Reverend Munther Isaac's "[Christ is still in the Rubble](#)" sermon from the Evangelical Lutheran Christmas Church in Bethlehem. Reverend Munther Isaac's original "Christ is Under the Rubble" sermon from Christmas 2023, recited by our own former Reverend Edmund Robinson last year, is located [here](#).

Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network — Join this network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, and participating in educational and advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](mailto:Davalene.Cooper), Keeper of the List.

Sunday Flower Donor

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? January 26 and February 2 are available! You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact Sharon Prehn (prehn@verizon.net or 781-925-0101).



TELLING A CONGREGATION'S STORY

STORYTELLING AND BRUNCH

FEBRUARY 1, 2025

10:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

HINGHAM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
378 MAIN STREET, HINGHAM



Members and friends of First Parish in Hingham (Old Ship) are invited to gather with the Transitional Ministry Team for community storytelling. This time of remembering, sharing, and weaving a community narrative helps a congregation to understand its history, culture, achievements, joy, grief and loss.

We are not isolated beings,
but connected,
in mystery and miracle,
to the universe and
to each other.

—Anonymous
VISIT UUA.ORG/WORSHIP



Trans Parent and Caregiver Support Group
Thursday, January 23rd at 4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
14 Main Street, Hingham

Gather with others who share your experience of being a transgender parent or caregiver. Come join us as we tell our stories in a safe and supportive environment.



Betty Potter's Quilt

The Gathering, and other admirers of Betty Potter's talents, had the high bid for her "Winter Magic" quilt in the Merrie Market auction. We hope it will adorn the walls of our new Parish House as a reminder of Betty's numerous contributions to Old Ship, and the joy Merrie Market brings to all.



Lead CRE Teacher Wanted

Do you know someone who would be terrific working with our youngest UUs? The Board is seeking to hire a part-time lead teacher for our CRE Program. Candidates should have prior experience teaching children ages 5-12, good communication/organizational skills, be familiar with and demonstrate UU values. Duties include;

- Planning and leading class twice monthly with a volunteer teacher.
- Updating the Board on class progress
- Coordinating with Old Ship staff
- Communicating Old Ship parents

On site teaching on the 2nd and 4th Sundays each month is required as well as outside of class lesson preparation. 6-12 hours per month is expected @\$25 ph. References and a successful CORI check are required. This position will run through mid June with a possible renewal next year. Please send resume or questions to President@oldshipchurch.org.





The Old Ship Church calendar is available on our website by clicking [here](#).

If you have an upcoming event or meeting and you want to see it on the calendar, please email [Lisa](#) in the office.

Additionally, if your contact information has changed, please email [Lisa](#) so she can update the Old Ship database.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Social Justice Committee** - Saturday, January 4, 9:00 AM., Zoom
- **Community Space Team** - Tuesday, January 7, 7:00 P.M. **Zoom**
- **Transitional Ministry Team**-Wednesday, January 8, 3:00 PM Parlor
- **Committee on Shared Ministry**- Wednesday, January 8, 6:00 PM Parlor
- **Board of Trustees** - **Thursday, January 9, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor**
[Click here for the zoom link](#) **The agenda will be sent out next week**
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Sunday, January 12, 9:30 AM, Meeting House

Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to 14 Main St and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2023, we were able to convert used cartridges into almost \$500 of office supplies! Drop off your cartridges in the 14 Main Street office. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!



Scam Emails and Texts

It is the very busy holiday season and scammers count on the fact you are distracted. Many scams are started with a text or an email, asking you to follow a link they sent you. **DO NOT CLICK on that link!** You may be giving a scammer access to your phone/computer and all the information stored.



Do NOT respond or click on any links sent to you through a scam email. They are trying to grab data or install malware.

Always remember that Rev Carie would never ask you to purchase gift cards!

**Do not respond to such emails!
Delete and mark them as spam!**



**from your friends at
Old Ship Church**

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!