



First Parish, Hingham  
**Old Ship Church**

Unitarian Universalist  
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## December 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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**Deadline for January's newsletter: Tuesday, December 24, 2024**

**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!](#)



**December Newsletter**  
**Monthly theme:**  
***Living Love Through the Practice of***  
***PRESENCE***

### **SUNDAY SERVICES**

#### **December 1st I'm UU, RU? Take 2 Jesse Flaherty**

Almost ten years ago I introduced myself to my then congregation in upstate Washington at the Skagit Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, looking at my life through the lens of Unitarian Universalism - I'd like to revisit those thoughts with you today, seeing how some things have stayed the same, and others have changed over the course of a decade. Join me while I explore a common question, we all ask ourselves at least once: How Did I Spiritually Get Here?

**December 8th**

**Vicariously Joyful**

**Rev. Carie Johnsen**

Monday, the 8<sup>th</sup> is Bodhi Day, a time of commemorating the Buddha's enlightenment. We will explore this holiday with a pause, to center down, reconnect with inner wisdom, and practices to quiet the hustle and bustle.

**December 15<sup>th</sup>                      Expect the Unexpected                      Rev. Carie Johnsen**

On December 25<sup>th</sup>, the Jewish tradition of Hanukkah begins commemorating the miracle of oil for one night burning for eight days. In this service we will explore the spiritual practice of being fully present to miracles, the gifts of grace and other unexpected surprise

**December 22<sup>nd</sup>                      Living Nativity                      Rev. Carie Johnsen  
with Diane Elliott**

With gratitude for author Norman Allen, Rev. Carie and Diane Elliott will bring back the holiday live nativity for all ages. This contemporary telling of the arrival of baby Jesus offers opportunity for involvement from the gathered community. Participants of all ages are welcome for this impromptu contemporary recreation of the nativity.

**December 24<sup>th</sup>                      Christmas Eve Service                      Rev. Carie Johnsen**

As in past years, Old Ship's Christmas Eve service will continue the beloved tradition not only for those of us who regularly worship here, but for many others in the wider community. All are warmly welcomed to our beloved Old Ship Meeting House for traditional carols, readings both traditional and not so traditional led by Rev Carie - as well as beautiful music from Christopher and the Choir.

**The Meeting House fills early; wise ones plan to arrive before 4:30.**

**December 29<sup>th</sup>                      New Year's Sharing Service                      Karen Churchill**

Our New Year's tradition of having a Sharing Service to welcome in the New Year continues! We will start with a shorter lay run Sunday service followed by attendees sharing readings, poetry, or maybe just some wonderful thoughts with each other. Please come with an open heart, a comfy outfit, *and a reading to share with fellow congregants* in peace and warmth. Our Sharing Service is one of our yearly favorites. There will be hot chocolate afterwards!

***Seasonal Vespers***

***Wednesdays at 6:30 pm***

***Dec. 4<sup>th</sup> Sacred Silence***

***Dec 11<sup>th</sup>. Grief and the holidays***

***Dec 18<sup>th</sup> Sacred Sound***

We are invited to gather for just over half an hour in the Meeting House (or to attend on Zoom) for our annual Vespers services. During this sometimes-hectic season, we can share a time of quiet, readings, and music in a gently lit Meeting House. [Click here for the zoom link](#)





To join the Interfaith Community Service of Thanksgiving and Healing, [please click here for the Zoom Link](#)

## EVERYDAY ORDINARY THEOLOGIES From the desk of Rev. Carie

This month our Soul Matters theme – Presence– aligns beautifully with the holiday season.

We begin this month with Bodhi Day, commemorating the time when the Buddhi is said to have found enlightenment. Advent, Hanukkah, Yule, Christmas, and Kwanzaa celebration fill the December calendar. Each holiday reaffirming religious beliefs, values, and/or culture is marked by the presence of light, love, and family.

The Old Ship calendar reflects the busyness of celebrations with the annual Solstice service led by Elizabeth Torrey and Wednesday vespers hosted by the worship and music committee. The annual Christmas Eve Service reflects our religious roots in Christianity with contemporary readings and carols. Tucked in the middle is Merrie Market, a traditional holiday church fair which services to build community and connect us with the people of greater Hingham. In the midst of our busy church lives is the hustle and bustle of our personal lives – parties, shopping, gifting, social events, and family gatherings. All of this on heals of a stressful November.

While there are some among us who thrive in the holiday season, it is more likely you are somewhere on a spectrum that stretches from I want to be on a secluded island now to this is the best month time ever. Regardless of where



we land, the month brings in a whole host of new events for our calendar, line items for our to do lists, and groceries to fill our carts.

In the spirit of tending to weary and wonderful souls, I offer you these prayerful intentions to invite you back to center.

May the simple life of love and kindness rise to meet the day.

May the quiet moments of peaceful serenity routinely disrupt the next thing.

May your door open wide and often for the stranger you have yet to meet.

May the joy of laughter and the comfort of tears be ready companions.

May the hope you cultivate be the hope you grow and share.

May your presence bring compassion and care to the person in grief and despair.

May the blessing of companionship be experienced in the people you meet along the way.

May you know you are loved, worthy, and whole.

May it be so.

In faith, love and hope,

Rev. Carie

[RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org](mailto:RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org)

Office phone 781-749-1679

Cell Phone 508-221-5295

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

## December Board Update

### November 17 Parish Meeting

On November 17, the Board gathered voting members for an all parish meeting to vote on two articles; Article 1 related to acceptance of a revised 2024/2025

budget. Article 2 related to authorizing the Board to

apply for grant reimbursement for critical Meeting House projects. Both of these articles were unanimously approved.



### November 7 Business Meeting

The Board also met on November 7 for a monthly business meeting. Below are items of interest not noted elsewhere in the newsletter.

**MA Peace Action Resolution;** A speaker was recognized and spoke about the Social Justice Council (SJC) request for the Board to sign a MA Peace Action Resolution urging Senators Markey and Warren to “cosponsor and vote in favor of the Joint Resolutions of Disapproval (JRDs) (S.J.Res.111 to S.J.Res.116) [introduced](#) on September 25 by Senators Sanders, Welch, Schatz and Merkley to block the delivery of an additional \$20B of U.S. weapons to Israel, over and above the record-breaking amount of \$17.9B in weapons already delivered since October 7, 2023.” The Board voted unanimously to sign the resolution and First Parish Hingham, Old Ship Church Board of Trustees was added shortly thereafter to this resolution.

**2024-2025 Budget:** The Board approved a revised version of the 24/25 budget. The budget for a lead teacher for the Children’s Religious Education program was increased to \$4,800 to reflect the possibility for additional

teaching time should the program grow. A unanimous vote recommended the budget be presented for congregational approval at a meeting set for Nov. 17.

**Building Committee Report:** Janice McPhillips, liaison to the Building Committee, spoke about the Building Committee's request for a congregational vote permitting the Board to apply for grants for critical Meeting House projects. Building Committee member Ron Pollara was recognized and explained that grant applications request a guarantee that applicants can provide 120% of the funded amount so that a congregational vote is necessary. These grants will reimburse critical meeting house projects initially paid for by the parish. Ron advised that the total for the grants would not exceed \$340,000. The Board voted unanimously to present an article for congregational vote at a Parish Meeting set for Nov. 17.

**Hiring a lead CRE teacher.** Trish McAleer, acting Chairperson for the Children's Religious Education (CRE) Committee, proposed that, as the CRE program is rebuilding this year, it would be more practical to hire a lead teacher in lieu of Director of RE. The Board agreed. Trish will work up a job description and advertise the position first to the congregation.

**Transition Ministry Team Selection:** Corey Fitz-Marquez advised that she, Judi Flaherty and Rev. Carie had assessed the nominees for the new Transition Ministry team and were recommending the following members; Chris Johnson, Ruben Marquez, Rob Baynes, Caitlin Gibson, Myrah West, Sarah Corey.

**Merrie Market Board Table:** The board agreed to a request to staff a table at Merrie Market which would offer people information on the church.

**Friends of the Homeless Dinner:** Dinner is scheduled for Tuesday December 17 at the Congregational Church in Hingham. Janice will make an announcement into the newsletter and will coordinate volunteers for the event.

Your Board of Trustees

Trish McAleer, President

Janice McPhillips, Vice President

Clayton Handleman, Treasurer

Elaine Cusker, Clerk

Karen Churchill, Dennis Hogan, Corey Fitz-Marquez; Trustees-at-large.

**Old Ship Merrie Market**  
**Saturday, December 14th**  
**9:00am - 2:00pm**  
**Hingham Community Center**

**Merrie Market Volunteers Needed!**

Elves are needed for many tasks: baking for the bake table, donating silent auction items and treasures. We are setting up on Friday, 12/13, staffing the market on Saturday, 12/14 and break-down.

**Please schedule your time by emailing Carol**

Valentine at [cvbostonma@aol.com](mailto:cvbostonma@aol.com), call or text Carol at 617-771-3383 or if you have any questions.

**Silent Auction** Items can be dropped off at 14 Main during office hours (Monday-Friday 10-2). We are looking for services you could provide, unique items, art/crafts and special antiques Please contact Carol Valentine, [cvbostonma@aol.com](mailto:cvbostonma@aol.com). Pick up can be arranged.

Contact co-chairs: Lisa Patterson at [pattersonlisa66@gmail.com](mailto:pattersonlisa66@gmail.com) and/or 617-529-1192 or Carol Valentine at [cvbostonma@aol.com](mailto:cvbostonma@aol.com) and/or 617-771-3383 with your questions.



## Old Ship Memorial Christmas Wreaths are now on sale.

**There is 1 Memorial Christmas wreath still available!**

There are 5 Memorial Christmas wreaths, with big red bows, that are hung inside and outside the Meeting House all through December. The wreaths are placed around the Meeting House:

**Left of Podium - available**

Right of Podium (reserved)

Balcony (reserved)

Front door (reserved)

Side door - (reserved)

You may purchase a wreath and give a one sentence dedication to Lisa. This will include your dedication and your name as the dedicator. The Wreaths are \$120 each and the proceeds go to Merrie Market. Please contact [Lisa Beck](mailto:lisa@oldship.org) by email or you may call the office (781)749-1679 , if you wish to buy one of these wreaths.

First come, first served.

The Wreath-Makers.

**Door and house wreaths will not be sold by Old Ship this year. The Wreath Makers are taking a one year vacation - hoping for a good plan to make, store, display and sell wreaths in the future!**



## CALLING ALL BAKERS MERRIE MARKET BAKE TABLE NEEDS YOU!

The Merrie Market bake table offers a variety of homemade goodies, and we would love to feature something from your kitchen.

Pies, breads, cookies, brownies, fudge, scones, and



candies are always popular, or perhaps you have a special family recipe you'd like to share.

Please label your item and package it in clear plastic wrap so customers can see what it is. Festive decorations or ribbons are great!

All items need to be delivered to the Community Center on Friday, December 13th by 7:00 pm or Saturday, December 14th by 8:00 am. If you have any questions or would like to let us know what you will be contributing, please contact Liz Flint at [elizabethflint@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethflint@hotmail.com) or (508) 560-1572.

## **Attention Families! Join us for Children's Religious Education December 8th & 22nd**



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, December 22nd**

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](mailto: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

Hello Old Ship,

December is an exciting time for music at Old Ship! Please remember to mark your calendars and join us on Christmas Eve at 5pm for beautiful music, traditional carols, and meaningful readings to highlight the season. We will have a fantastic brass quintet along with our wonderful Old Ship Choir, all culminating in a rousing rendition of the Hallelujah chorus. If you haven't experienced this service before, it's sure to be a meaningful and memorable time for all. I look forward to seeing you there!



Musically,  
Christopher

## WISDOM OF THE POETS

Spirit of the North,  
spirit of earth  
of night time and winter:

Be with us in the darkness,  
in the time of gestation.

Ground us in the wisdom of the  
changing seasons  
as we celebrate the spiraling  
journey of our lives.

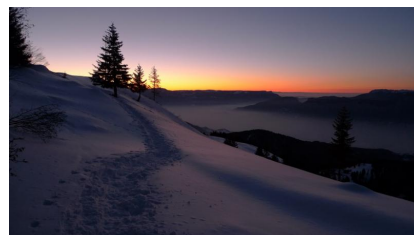
Joan Goodwin

as always, comments are welcome ([elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com))



## 28<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE POETRY AND SONG EVENING Friday, December 20th, 6:45 PM

Everyone is cordially invited to honor the 28<sup>th</sup> Winter Solstice event, (on the eve of the Solstice). Musical prelude begins at 6:45 PM, program begins at 7 PM. The evening will be both in person and on zoom. Audience members are invited to bring a favorite winter poem or a poem about hope, or simply come and listen. Rev. Carie will introduce the evening which takes place in the Meetinghouse. The zoom link will be posted on the Old Ship Church website by Monday, December 9th. All are welcome. more info: [elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com) or 781-749-0543.





**Community Space Team**  
**Tuesdays 7:00 PM**  
**Zoom**



**Update on the Proposed Parish House**

- The preliminary floor plans are nearing completion and we will probably discuss them at our meeting next week. See below for the link.
- We are looking at other church's cooking spaces in an effort to make sure the new kitchen meets Old Ship's needs to the greatest extent possible.
- We expect to receive the Geothermal Report from our consultant very shortly. This will guide the decision on whether to use geo-thermal or air source heat pumps for an energy efficient heating and cooling system.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, November 26 at 7:00 PM on Zoom. All are welcome! Please use the following link to join:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85668053025?pwd=aGL8YDwh6KmiaLbL69NAeD1prFqc4w.1>

Meeting ID: 856 6805 3025

Passcode: 903535

Thanks for your interest... The Community Space Team: Stuart Patterson, Elaine Gomez, Jack Gomez, Laura Harbottle, Ron Pollara, and Board Liaison Dennis Hogan

**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, December 3rd 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](#).

**Sacred Texts Meditation Group**

**Next gathering: Thursday, December 12th**  
**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](mailto:Lisa.Sawyer@unitarian.org).

**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, December 22nd**. Contact [Ralph Brown](mailto:Ralph.Brown@unitarian.org) or [Rich Elliott](mailto:Rich.Elliott@unitarian.org) for information and a Zoom, link.

## Fellowship Hour & Snacks

Fellowship Hour will be held at 14 Main Street. Last names beginning **I - P** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, December 1st**. 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?](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85059408242?pwd=tnOmlqQRSQSYS7QuG0XC0dOWedJ8Z6.1)



[pwd=tnOmlqQRSQSYS7QuG0XC0dOWedJ8Z6.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/85059408242?pwd=tnOmlqQRSQSYS7QuG0XC0dOWedJ8Z6.1)

**December Special Plate/Outreach Collection: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee Guest at Your Table Program** — Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC's annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since it began in 1975, GAYT has introduced generations of Unitarian Universalists to our grassroots partners working for justice around the world with your support. This year's theme is "Expanding the Welcome Table." Our guests represent some of the most important work being undertaken by UUSC at this critical time in our national history. You will meet young climate activists in the Marshall Islands helping their communities heal from the destructive legacy of nuclear testing by the United States while envisioning a sustainable future for their people; LGBTQ+ leaders in Ukraine offering resources and companionship to the queer community impacted by Russia's full-scale invasion; Haitian academics researching racism's impacts on the experiences of migrants of color in the United States; and Trans organizers forming networks of safety and welcome for trans and gender expansive people forced to flee unsafe communities and states.

Throughout December, we will learn more about this year's guests, but you also can learn more about them through the Stories of Hope book, available online at [UUSC-24-25GAYTStories-of-Hope-Booklet\\_Final.pdf](https://www.unitarian.org/stories-of-hope-booklet-final.pdf). We also will

distribute hard copies of this book in the Meeting House.

Donations can be made in a variety of ways this month. You may make your donation as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House, date to be determined. You may make your donation online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: UUSC Guest at Your Table. Finally, you may make your donation directly to UUSC at the following site: [Donate to Classy - Guest at Your Table](#). If you make your donation directly to UUSC, please make sure to indicate you are part of the First Parish in Hingham, Old Ship Church congregation. That way your donation will be included as part of our monthly outreach offering. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world.

**Hingham Food Pantry** — We have been asked to help the food pantry provide three specific items for their holiday baskets for the families they serve. ***We need these items to be donated no later than Sunday, December 8. We are collecting pancake mix, pancake syrup, and boxes of hot chocolate packets.*** Please bring these to the Meeting House or to 14 Main and we will deliver them to the food pantry.

For the remainder of the month, please bring items such as cookies, crackers, mac and cheese, hearty soups, pasta, and rice and pasta side dishes, to the Meeting House or to 14 Main. Also, last month's special plate/outreach offering raised \$1616.90 for the Hingham Food Pantry. Thanks to the Old Ship community for your generosity.

**UU Urban Ministry News** — The new Artists of Color catalog is available online at [Artists of Color Catalogue 2024 | UUUM - Boston, MA](#) This is a wonderful source for holiday gifts that support the thriving community of independent artists in Roxbury.

On Saturday, November 16, Old Shippers Brenda Black, Davalene Cooper, Ellie Handleman, and Laura Harbottle attended the newly created Bridges of Understanding program at the UU Urban Ministry. This program offers an opportunity to explore our racial biases, their impact, and what we can do to promote equity for all. We engaged in courageous conversations, interactive activities, lunch, and a tour of the nearby Dillaway Thomas House, where we learned about the history of the Roxbury community. It was an amazing day and we hope more of us from Old Ship will participate in this program in the future. [insert picture from attachment below]

**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.

**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](#), Keeper of the List.

**Giving Tuesday - Tues, December 3rd**

Each of us is a thread in the net of love, care and support of the Old Ship Community. If you are able, please make an extra donation on Giving Tuesday, 12/3, to help strengthen this net.

**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

### [Donate online](#)

What Is Giving Tuesday? - Celebrated on the Tuesday following both Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday kicks off the holiday season. Charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world come together in common purpose: to celebrate their cause and to give.



## The Old Ship Calendar

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

- **Community Space Team** - Tuesday, November 26 , 7:00 P.M. **Zoom**
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Wednesday, November 27, 6:00 P.M. Meeting House
- **Community Space Team** - Tuesday, December 3 , 7:00 P.M. **Zoom**
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, December 5, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor ; [Click here for the zoom link](#) The agenda will be sent out next week
- **Transitional Ministry** - Saturday, December 7th at 10:00 AM 14 Main St

## 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

Unfortunately, another scam email went out over the weekend. The email address used was very close to Rev. Carie's email address.



**When a scam text or email is received, please Do Not Respond!  
Reverend Carie would never ask for money or gift cards!**

Don't copy and paste links from emails, and don't hover over links to check their validity. Hackers can use coding to make a URL look legitimate



Lisa will be out of the office from Thursday, November 28 - Monday, December 2nd, returning on Tuesday, December 3rd at 9:00 A.M.



First Parish, Old Ship Church | 14 Main Street | Hingham, MA 02043 US

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