



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
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January 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for February's newsletter: Tuesday, January 23, 2024

Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Multi-Platform:
Join us in-person in the Meeting House
or on Zoom
(masks are optional - and vaccination strongly urged)

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

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

Sunday, December 31st **Sharing Service** **No Zoom**

Our New Year's tradition of having a Sharing Service to welcome in the New Year continues! This will be a lay run service of sharing readings, poetry, or maybe just some wonderful thoughts

you have. 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!



Services for January:

Sunday, January 7 **New Year's Vows**

What promises can we make to ourselves that are realistic and best calculated to improve our lives?

Sunday, January 14

MLK Jr: can change come about without violence ?

Sunday, January 21
Is free will an illusion?

Sunday, January 28
Antidisestablishmentarianism made easy.

The Minister's Monthly Musings

Well, we have made it through 2023. Whew! We are inured to headlines on the political front that would have shocked us into our graves back in the last decade. We don't know what lies ahead, but we can bet it will have more than a bit of the unexpected.



Of course, that raises a logical problem: if you could somehow train yourself to expect the unexpected, it wouldn't be unexpected any more. But it seems to me that, at some point in radical cultural change, life hands you so many situations which have no historical precedent that your mind just gives up on trying to make sense of it all. And my fear is that if enough people lose faith in the intelligibility of our worlds, social and natural, we will in effect write our leaders a blank check and then we will have arrived at fascism.

We must keep caring, we must keep resisting the slide into meaninglessness. No, we will never understand completely nor be able completely and coherently to put into language what we see with our hearts. But we must make the effort, we can't just give up.

Please feel free to respond to anything I say here. I am glad to set up appointments for folks who want to discuss these ideas further.

Blessings,
Edmund

Office Hours will resume when Edmund returns.
My office hours are Tuesday afternoons from 1 to 4, but you can make an appointment for any time I am available. I want to get to know you. Call me at 617-710-0508 or email at edmund@gmail.com (yes, that's two "u"s).

Board of Trustees January Update

On December 12th, Old Shippers put their UU values in action serving dinner for local families experiencing homelessness. The annual dinner, organized this year by the Board, served approximately 90 adults and children. This annual event, coordinated with Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore, was held this year at the Hingham Congregational Church. Several additional Old Ship



volunteers contributed as well by preparing food at home, setting up, serving and cleaning up after. A big shout out to Janice McPhillips for marshaling and big thank you to all those who made this event a success.

The Community Space Team held two meetings in December. The discussion was exploratory and focused on budget, size of space, and what could be put into that space. The team determined that it will have a rotating chairperson, with the committee chaired first by Stuart Patterson. The team will meet again January 3rd on Zoom. Check the next newsletter for the zoom link.

We are excited to announce that in 2024 we will be launching a new First Parish Old Ship Church website. We will be working with KD Sutton Designs to offer a website that is more user friendly with a fresh new look. Stay tuned for more details as the project gets under way in January.

Finally, as we bring down the curtain on 2023, the Board wants to thank our church members for their contributions and our staff for their dedicated work over this past year. This year has been filled with challenges and accomplishments. We look forward to working together and being in community for things to come in 2024. On behalf of all of us on the Board, we wish you all a happy and healthy New Year!

Trish McAleer, President
On behalf of the Old Ship Board of Trustees

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

Whether you were behind the scenes or sharing your singing voice, many thanks to everyone involved in helping make the music for Christmas Eve fantastic! Wishing you the best for a happy, healthy, and musical 2024. Happy New Year to you and yours!

Musically,
Christopher



Merrie Market Final Results Are In!

While this year's Merrie Market is behind us, planning for 2024 has already begun! The planning team wanted to share the final financial results with the congregation. We are happy to report that market sales totaled \$14,250. After expenses, the market raised \$11,750 in proceeds to fund church activities! Many lessons were learned in the new space, and we hope to continue to build on this success in years to come.



Thank you once again to all who helped in this community effort!

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
Elaine Gomez
Fan Leonard
Claire Petrie
Joan Wilson
Patience Gardner
Louise Smith
Edmund Robinson

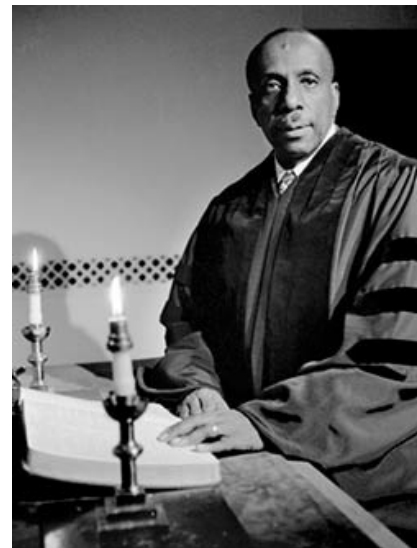
WISDOM OF THE POETS

The Work of Christmas

When the song of the angels is stilled,
When the star in the sky is gone,
When the kings and princes are home,
When the shepherds are back with their flock,
The work of Christmas begins:
To find the lost,
To heal the broken,
To feed the hungry,
To release the prisoner,
To rebuild the nations,
To bring peace among others,
To make music in the heart.

Howard Thurman

How can Old Ship manifest the work of Christmas in the coming year(s)?
comments always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com



SUNDAY FLOWERS DONORS NEEDED

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? January 21, 28 and February 4 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).



Life Learning Offerings

click here to see our [2023-2024 Life Learning Web Page](#)



The Gathering

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

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, December 28th

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 Catherine Mayes. For questions and Zoom link, email [Lisa Sawyer](#).

Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, January 2th 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>

Agnosticism and Belief

Six Wednesdays, Jan. 3 – 31, Feb. 7, 7:00 p.m., Hybrid

An exploration of agnosticism and its meaning and relevance for living. Topics will include agnostic views on religion, atheism, morality, happiness, society, etc. The format will be group discussion in reaction to topics and reading selections from well-known agnostics, atheists, and others (e.g., T.H. Huxley, Bertrand Russell, Thomas Paine, Richard Dawkins, etc.). Dennis will supply readings and serve as discussion moderator. For information, contact [Dennis](#).

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning, **8:30 a.m.**, of each month. Our next gathering will be **January 28th** – in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. Contact Ralph Brown (ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) or Rich Elliott (richelliott56@gmail.com) for information and, for the Zoom link.

Serving Others



News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

All Church Read: How are Climate Change and White Supremacy Culture Connected? — We are asking the congregation to engage in an “all church” read of a book that connects these two issues that we have been focusing on as part of our social justice work. The book is *Climate Change is Racist: Race, Privilege and the Struggle for Climate Justice* by Jeremy Williams. The author argues that climate change “is structurally racist, disproportionately caused by majority White people in majority White countries, with the damage unleashed overwhelmingly on people of colour.” This is a short, 163 page book and our hope is that many of you will read it and then gather with us in small groups to talk about it later in January or early February. More details about the timing of these conversations will be forthcoming.

January Special Plate Collection: Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry’s Renewal House Shelter —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 in one of two ways this month. You may make your donation as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House, date still 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: UUUM Renewal House.

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group— All are welcome to join us at 7 p.m. on January 21 as we discuss *Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society* by Arline T. Geronimus. The author “coined the term ‘weathering’ to describe the effects of systemic oppression—including racism and classism—on the body...Based on more than 30 years of research, she argues that health and aging have more to do with how society treats us than how well we take care of ourselves.” Here is the Zoom link for the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82223006942?pwd=aw5JRGgHNWEogDuMXFzK0aUjCx5jWr.1>.

Hingham Food Pantry — We collect food each week for the Hingham Food Pantry. Please leave your donations in the bins located in the vestibule of the Meeting House and at 14 Main Street. Items especially needed this month include the following: Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Healthy Cereal, Grape or Strawberry Jelly, Rice Side Dishes, and Cookies. Also, as another way to donate food, there is a box for donations at the front of the Stop and Shop in Hingham.

News from the UU Urban Ministry — Community Conversations: This year, the theme for community conversations is how housing has contributed to racial inequity, especially in Boston. The January Conversation is The Right to Stay with David Harris. David recently retired as Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and has extensive experience in many facets of civil rights issues. He was the founding Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston and currently chairs the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. This virtual event will take place on Tuesday, January 16, 2023, from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82881458320>

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 and advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](mailto:Davalene.Cooper@oldship.org), Keeper of the List.

Continued search for new cooking or salad making volunteers for our Father Bill's cooking teams



Many thanks to the three new volunteers who have each joined one of our Father Bill's cooking teams in recent weeks. The other three teams also very much need additional help to be able to provide the 150 meals needed by the newly expanded program* at the Yawkey Housing Resource Center/Father Bill's-Mainspring in Quincy.

Will you help in the New Year?

What's involved: preparing a main dish or salad four times per year (dates known well in advance), helping to serve the meal at 5 pm or dropping off your contribution in advance if coming to serve is not possible (or another team member may also be able to pick up your donation and deliver it for you). Your team will provide a recipe and shopping list of quantities needed, with the cost of ingredients totaling about \$50 per meal. Two of the Thursday teams need an additional helper and one of Monday teams does as well.

If you are interested or have questions, please contact Brenda Black at blackpollara@verizon.net or 781 740 2835

If you cannot volunteer yourself would you please let your friends know about the need for additional cooks. Our cooking teams have always been comprised of caring persons from anywhere in our community. Thanks for your help in getting the word out about this need!

*Here is the link to newest newsletter about the Father Bill's exciting new facility and program:

https://helpfbms.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/FINAL-WEB-VERSION-Newsletter-fall23winter24-1.pdf?bbeml=tp-XCPfxLUcH0it_D545zF7Ng.jn389gRJY2E-0gwADQySWMQ.rOEeJ6YCwo0q89RtVxOguYA.IW41mJmJd-U6t2RC1k0vN8Q

Friday, February 2nd at 7:00 pm in the Meeting House

Old Ship Candlelight Concerts resume with a free concert by the Boston-based Rasa String Quartet on Friday, February 2nd, at 7 pm in the Meetinghouse.



Formed in 2019, the Rasa String Quartet was the 2022-23 ensemble in residence at Phillips Exeter Academy, and explore the connection between music and storytelling at the heart of folk traditions. Jazz meets counterpoint in this upcoming concert, telling a tale of two seemingly disparate styles that come together beautifully, ending in the exhilarating finale of Shostakovich's unrelenting ninth string quartet.

For more information, please contact Christopher Sullivan at candlelightconcertsoldship@gmail.com.

Admission is free; your donation is welcome.



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

- **Deacons** - Tuesday, January 2, 7:00 p.m.
- **Community Space Team Meeting** - Wednesday, January 3, 7:00 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, January 4, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) Agenda will be shared next week.
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday., January 9, 2:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor

Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to 14 Main St and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2022, 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!



from your friends at
Old Ship Church!

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

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