



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist

14 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043

(781) 749-1679

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February 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for March's newsletter: Tuesday, February 20, 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, February 4

Abe Lincoln in context.

We visit the history of the Lincoln family in Hingham and see whether the local environment sheds any light on the greatest and most enigmatic of our Presidents.

Sunday, February 11

Love and Evolution.

What does Mr. Darwin say about the value of love in human life and in all life?

Sunday, February 18

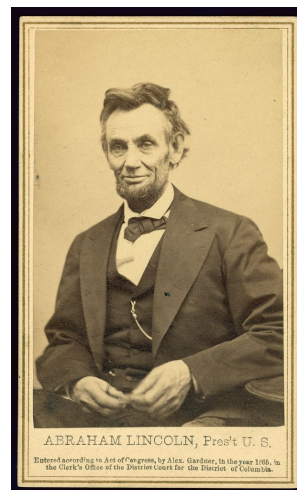
Profiles in courage.

Rosa Parks is not the only heroine of the Black struggle for justice. Today's sermon will highlight others.

Sunday, February 25

The Banjo.

A history of this beloved and also maligned instrument mirrors the history of racism in the United States.



The Minister's Monthly Musings Rev. Edmund Robinson



February is, of course, the shortest month, even on Leap Year, which this year is. But it is also packed with activities and commemorations.

The Lincoln family looms large in Hingham history and we will spotlight it with our Sunday service February 4, and also host the Hingham Historical Society's Lincoln Day ceremony on Saturday, February 10. I will be involved in the services as will Christopher.

February also means St. Valentine's Day, which highlights the value of love. I will be preaching on February 11 on love and evolution, and the Board will be hosting a Pot Luck Luncheon after the service to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Of course, St. Valentine's Day itself isn't until the 14th, but the Pastoral Care Leadership team will cover that with a Valentine's celebration focusing on homemade chocolates! It will be at 14 Main St. at 2:30 pm, Wednesday the 14th. The Gathering, which normally meets on Wednesdays, will yield to the celebration of love and chocolate. There may also be some music.

February is also Black History Month and we will work some observance of Black contributions to American culture and history into the services February 18th and 25th.

There may also be more snow on the way. And if we make it through February, we will be all ready for the voting on Super Tuesday, March 5.

Blessings,
Edmund

Edmund's Office Hours

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 February Update

On January 4th, the Board of Trustees met for their monthly session. Here is information on committees, and issues not discussed elsewhere in our newsletter.



The Worship and Music Committee (WAM) needs our love and attention. As this committee's chairperson has recently stepped down, WAM is understaffed. If you can't commit to being a member please do reach out to [Karen Churchill](#) to sign up to help at an upcoming service. The jobs of chalice lighter, usher and reader need to be filled each week.

The Community Space Team met last month with our Treasurer, Jack Gomez to develop a recommended budget to include ongoing maintenance for the building. The team expects to hold open meetings this month and a congregation information meeting sometime soon.

The Finance Committee has been asked to recommend the funding for a renewal of the lease at 14 Main St. The landlord at 14 Main has recently sent notice that they would like us to renew and will only be increasing the rent a very nominal amount. A congregational vote will be required and is expected to be held in late February or early March in order to approve a lease renewal. As this transitional space has served our needs so well the past year, the Finance Committee and the Board are both recommending a renewal of this space.

Website Project Approved. The BOT has contracted with KLSutton Design to design a new website for Old Ship. The project is expected to begin this month and continue through the winter. Anyone interested in helping with this project should contact [Trish McAleer](#)..

Emeritus Status for Rev. Ken. The Board has received a request to consider offering our previous Minister Ken Read-Brown Emeritus status. Board members unanimously agreed that this would be fitting and beneficial for Old Ship. More research is needed into this process and it was agreed that this topic would be revisited in the February BOT meeting.

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

Musical Notes

Hello Old Ship,

It's hard to believe that a year ago we were packing up the Parish House and preparing for the move to Main Street. Time certainly flies by. As we look forward to the rest of the church year, I am excited by the upcoming musical opportunities. In the coming months we will have guest musicians, special music for Easter and, of course, Music Sunday. While some of the details have yet to coalesce, I'm certain this spring will be full of joy and meaningful music. As always, I am honored to share music with you all on a weekly basis. I look forward to seeing you at Sunday services!

Musically Yours,
Christopher



♥Feel the Love♥
The Pastoral Care Leadership Team
invites you to our
Valentine's Day Open House.

Please join us at 14 Main Street on February 14th
from 2:30-4:30
for fellowship, conversation, music, and seasonal refreshments.
No agenda; all are welcome!

The Pastoral Care Team Members:

[Ralph Brown](#), [Liz Flint](#), [Elaine Gomez](#), [Fan Leonard](#), [Claire Petrie](#), [Joan Wilson](#), [Louise Smith](#), [Edmund Robinson](#)

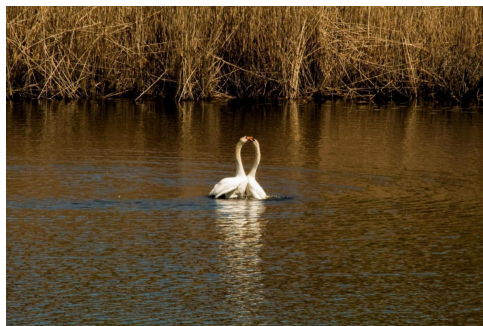
Wisdom of the Poets

VALENTINE

My heart has made its mind up
And I'm afraid it's you.
Whatever you've got lined up,
My heart has made its mind up
And if you can't be signed up
This year, next year will do.
My heart has made its mind up
And I'm afraid it's you.

British poet Wendy Cope

comments always welcome: [Elizabeth Torrey](#)



SUNDAY FLOWERS DONORS NEEDED

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? March 10, 24 & 31st 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](#) (781-925-0101).



Lunar New Year Pot Luck Luncheon Sunday, February 11, 11:45 am

Let's celebrate the Lunar New Year together!
After the service on February 11, we will join together for a Lunar New Year themed potluck lunch at 14 Main. Please bring something to share. Offerings may be dropped off at 14 Main before 10:20. Let's make the year of the Dragon special! If you have any questions, please contact [Janice McPhillips](#) or 781-249-9141.



Life Learning Offerings

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



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, February 8th
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, February 6th 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 **February 25th** – in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and, for the Zoom link.

Coming of Age

Sundays, 12:00 PM - 1:30 PM

The Coming of Age program is a wonderful opportunity for our youth to develop and grow within our faith community. to participate in social justice activity and decision making together and to have fun. We can't wait to see you soon and hope that this opportunity lines up with your family's schedule.

If interested in joining this call please contact [Maureen Butler](#) or cell: (617) 877 - 5204



Religious Naturalism
Rev. Edmund Robinson
Three Wednesdays, Feb. 14 – 28, 6:00
p.m., Hybrid



Several varieties of non-theistic religion exist today — atheism, agnosticism, humanism. There are also some branches of older religions which consider the existence or power of divine beings irrelevant. Following the examination of agnosticism, this class will explore what is called religious naturalism. It does not take a position on whether divine beings exist, or what their powers might be, but is insistent that supernatural accounts of any phenomena are not permitted. Religious naturalism takes the picture of the world that modern science gives us and tries to understand the world through that. For information, contact [Rev. Robinson](#).

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)



Everyone is invited to join us at our next meeting on Saturday, March 9, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Here is the link to the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82151949456?pwd=93A3y3pSToP6ZexCAGBDR2XaIHwYyl.1>

All Church Read: How are Climate Change and White Supremacy Culture Connected? Join us for the Discussion at 7 p.m. on Sunday, February 4 on Zoom — 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 on Sunday, February 4 from 7-8:30 p.m. on Zoom to talk about it. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83348608149?pwd=wWAxZu0oqPw0O0YqHlo8yEqmaiAfk.1>.

February Special Plate Collection: International Institute of New England (IINE) — We at Old Ship have supported IINE before. The mission of this organization is to “create opportunities for refugees and immigrants to succeed through resettlement, education, career advancement and pathways to citizenship.” Currently, the organization is working to help those refugees and immigrants coming to the greater Boston area from many places in the world. Services provided include humanitarian relief, English language learning, employment, skills training, and immigration legal services. If you wish to learn more about this important organization, go to [International Institute of New England | Home \(iine.org\)](http://InternationalInstituteofNewEngland.org).

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: International Institute of New England.

Appreciation for Donations from Old Ship Members and Friends to our Fall Special Plate Recipients — Thanks to everyone who has contributed to the Special Plate Collections in October, November, and December! We collected a total of \$4,026.79 for our fall recipients. The Hingham Food Pantry received \$910.79. We received donations of \$1513.18 for the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore and after paying for the expenses of the holiday dinner for the Friends, we sent them a check for \$948.60. The total amount collected for the UUSC's Guest at Your Table Program, including donations made directly to them was \$1602.82.

Also, thanks to everyone who contributed to the Christmas Eve offering. The total amount of the offering was \$1720 and it was equally divided among Father Bill's/Mainspring, the UU Urban Ministry, and the UU Service Committee.

During this time when there are so many in need of the basic necessities of life—housing, food, and protection of basic rights—Old Ship is helping to create a better world and a more beloved community. Thanks to each of you for these donations and gifts!

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: Healthy Cereal, Cookies, Canned Tuna, Pasta Sauce, Regular Ground Coffee, and Canned Pasta. Also, as another way to donate food, there is a box for donations at the front of the Stop and Shop in Hingham

Forum on Immigration Issues after Church on Sunday, February 18 in the Parlor at 14 Main Street: Kate Waider, Volunteer and Community Sponsorship Coordinator for the International Institute of New England will be with us for our special plate collection on February 18. After the service, she will share information about the Institute with us and answer any questions we might have about the work of the Institute and how we might provide even more support to its work with immigrants and refugee. Please come and find out more about this important issue and how we might support our newest neighbors in the Boston area..

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group— All are welcome to join us at 7 p.m. on February 18 as we discuss *Never Far From Home: My Journey from Brooklyn to Hip Hop, Microsoft, and the Law* by Bruce Jackson. This book is a "valuable reminder of the invisible hurdle set in front of every young African American--an important story, extremely well told, that should serve as a lesson on how we got here and where we need to go." (Description by civil rights attorney Fred B. Gray). Here is the Zoom link for the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84740380108?pwd=cf5jwa469XUe9hCQSbgYb4LqPn2dD7.1>.

UU Urban Ministry Community Conversations: Restorative Homeownership — Join UUUM for a discussion about how housing has contributed to racial inequity, especially in Boston. This conversation takes place on February 13, from 6:00 – 7:00 PM. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86566155224>

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](#), Keeper of the List.



ONE more cook is needed to fully staff the Father Bill's Cooking Teams for 2024!

With deep thanks to the seven new volunteers who have joined Father Bill's Cooking teams in recent months, we are happy to report that only one additional cook is needed for a Thursday night cooking team!

As of February 1st, the full program at Father Bill's/MainSpring's Yawkey Housing Resource Center in Quincy will be operational, meaning that 150 meals will be served every day of the year to overnight shelter guests and residents of the new longer term on-site housing. Each of our Father Bill's cooking teams provides four dinner meals per year to feed hungry adults and support the important work of the Housing Resource Center. Check out the range of services now provided <https://helpfbms.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/11/HRC-Programs-Info-Flyer.pdf>

The Thursday team that needs one additional cook provides a meal of shepherd's pie and salad on the 2nd Thursday of January, April, July and October. What's involved: preparing a large steam tray of shepherd's pie (recipe, shopping list and large foil tray will be provided). You can make the dish in advance if that fits your schedule best, and bring the refrigerated or frozen tray to the shelter any day of that week that works for you (or a fellow team member can pick up your tray and deliver it). You are invited to help serve the meal (a very rewarding experience of chatting with shelter guests and staff) from 5-6pm on your team's Thursdays and that is optional. Will you help us provide these needed meals and support the important work at the Yawkey Housing Resource Center?

If you cannot volunteer yourself, would you please let your friends know about the need for an additional cook. 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!

If you are interested or have questions, please contact [Brenda Black](#) or 781 740 2835

**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.

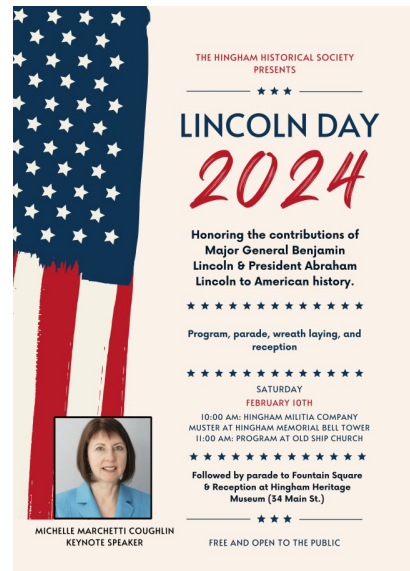


Formed in 2019, the Rasa String Quartet was the 2022-23 ensemble in residence at Phillips Exeter Academy, and explore the connection between music and storytelling at the heart of folk traditions. Jazz meets counterpoint in this upcoming concert, telling a tale of two seemingly disparate styles that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

For more information, please contact Christopher Sullivan at candlelightconcertsoldship@gmail.com. Admission is free; your donation is welcome.

Hingham Historical Society's 47th Lincoln Day Commemoration Saturday, February 10 at 10:15 AM

For many years - decades actually - we have been pleased to open our Meeting House for the annual Lincoln Day Commemoration sponsored and led by the Hingham Historical Society. Hingham's "Lincoln Day" honors two Lincolns, Hingham's own Revolutionary War General Benjamin Lincoln, and President Lincoln, whose ancestors were among the early settlers of Hingham. As you'll see from the brochure, this year the keynote speaker will be Michelle Marchetti Coughlin. Our own Christopher Nickelson-Mann will lead the music.



Ecojustice Camp August 12 - 15, 2024 First Parish in Cohasset

For families interested in enrolling, there is a "Try Out Day" this Saturday, February 3rd, from 10am-12pm at the Parish House (23 N. Main Street). Follow the brick walkway to the side entrance. Camp Educators and Counselors-In-Training will be on hand to meet and greet, answer questions, and provide a preview of what camp will be by singing songs, playing games, and engaging in other camp related activities. Depending on the time and weather, there may be a chance to take a short



hike across the street, as well. We are also looking for Counselors in Training and Junior Counselors. All information can be found on the [camp website](#).



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

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, February 1, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) [Click Here for the agenda](#)
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Sunday, February 4, 9:30 a.m.
- **Committee on Ministry** - Monday, February 5, 5:30 p.m. Parlor
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday., February 6, 1:00 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 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!



**Happy Valentine's Day
from your friends at
Old Ship Church!**

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

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