



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
14 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679
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April 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for May's newsletter: Tuesday, April 23, 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!](#)

Sunday, March 31 **Easter**

A Religious Naturalist Resurrection Orthodox Christianity, following the Biblical accounts of Jesus' resurrection, insists that followers believe in a physical coming back to life that belies what science and our every day experience tell us about life and death. On the other hand, spiritual resurrections happen all the time. As Unitarian Universalists, we each have the privilege and the responsibility to make up our own minds on the ultimate questions of life and death. No matter what we've lost, we can rise in spirit if not in body.



Sunday, April 7 **Amplifying the Charge I**

Who Am I? A reflection on the journey to UUism as a personal faith identity.

Sunday, April 14 **Amplifying the Charge II**

An overview of Unitarian and Universalist history.

Sunday, April 21

Dillon Bustin, Musical Transcendentalist

Dillon is the former state folklorist of Massachusetts and a wonderful singer and songwriter. His musical exploration of the Transcendentalists will be accompanied by Jacqueline Schwab

Sunday, April 28

Amplifying the Charge III

What keeps us here? And exploration of UU theology.

Easter Sunday Food Drive at Old Ship for the Hingham Food Pantry:

The Social Justice Council is asking members and friends of our congregation to bring two or three items for the Hingham Food Pantry as part of our Easter/Spring celebration. Items can be left at 14 Main or in the vestibule of the Meeting House. After speaking with food pantry volunteers, we are specifically asking that you bring ground coffee--regular or decaf--and small jars of mayonnaise. These are especially needed items at this time. Thanks in advance for helping us with this food drive!



April Musings Rev. Edmund Robinson

T.S. Eliot begins his poem "The Waste Land" with these words:

April is the cruellest month, breeding
Lilacs out of the dead land, mixing
Memory and desire, stirring
Dull roots with spring rain.



"Cruel" is a cruel word; many of us find the springtime bursting forth of lilacs, daffodils, and crocuses not cruel but delightful. We can look ahead to fall when we know that many of these colors will change and the land will revert to more earthy tones, but why can we not enjoy the spectacle of spring when it is here with us? The poet seems to be saying that spring's bounty brings a false hope, that our expectation of continuous flowering is bound to be dashed in a few months. But that is not cruel; it is nature's way. The seasons come in cycles, as does life in general. What is the false hope that is stirred? If it was that the blooms of Easter would last the year around, it was not based on a realistic premise in the first place. Changing seasons remind us of the passage of time, spring does mix memory and desire, but that is the way it has been for every spring we have been alive on this earth. Let us rejoice!

As many of you know, our denomination at the national level has been considering changes in our seven principles. Three years ago, they gave a charge to the drafting committee, and at the all-virtual General Assembly

coming up this June, the entire denomination has the chance to vote on the proposed changes. It is called Article II because our current Principles and Purposes make up Article II of the UU corporate by-laws. The UUA has published a curriculum called Amplifying the Charge which is offered to all member congregations to focus on the proposed changes. The Old Ship Board and the Committee on Ministry (COM) have agreed to present a version of this program in the months of April and May. There will be four services devoted to it. There will also be a small group discussion; which you are invited to join.

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).

April Board of Trustees Update

Below are notable items from the March 7th Board of Trustees meeting and later not discussed elsewhere in our newsletter.



Committee on Ministry

To help prepare congregations about this springs Article 2 vote. The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) has created a program called **Amplifying the Charge**. The process of talking about Article 2 will help us to define ourselves as a congregation and how we identify as Unitarian Universalists. While the complete program requires 4 Sunday services and 4 small group discussions, The Committee on Ministry, in coordination with Worship and Music, will adapt the program to fit the people and energy we have while providing essential information. We look forward to this running in April.

Minister Emeritus Discussion

This month the Board continued to consider appropriate timing of designating Rev. Ken Read-Brown as our Minister Emeritus. Initial discussion was prompted by a January email on behalf of members who advocated such an article be voted on at May's Annual Meeting. Per our Old Ship bylaws, an article may be included for a vote at Annual Meeting either by the Board or by a congregation member.

In the February Board meeting, the Board reached a consensus that naming Rev. Ken as Minister Emeritus was entirely appropriate. However, there was continued debate over the appropriate timing of this process. The February meeting ended with some Board members requesting additional clarification on UUA recommendations on the process and clearer understanding of Minister Emeritus duties. In response, at the March 7th meeting the Board received a summary of information from the Emeritus guidelines of both the UUA <https://www.uua.org/leaderlab/emeriti-policies> and the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association

(UUMA) <https://uuma.org/guidelines/#ministers-emeritus-a>

During the discussion which followed, comments were shared by Board members as well as recognized congregation members. Some speakers expressed it was best to delay the Emeritus process till the next church year

citing concerns which included having limited time and resources this spring to engage in a process suggested by these guidelines. Alternatively, other speakers maintained that having an Emeritus vote at our Annual Meeting was feasible and appropriate. It was ultimately agreed that Board members would coordinate with congregants favoring an Annual meeting vote to discuss a covenant between the Emeritus and the Congregation and other preparation (as suggested in the guidelines) prior to an Emeritus vote. This information is expected to be reviewed at the April Meeting.

Interim Minister Search Team

The Board has determined that we will engage in the UUA Interim Minister Search Process to hire a minister for the next church year. The Interim Search Team is composed of Trish McAleer, Maureen Butler, Karen Churchill, Janice McPhillips, Dennis Hogan and Ellie Handleman. It should be noted that, as the number of congregations needing ministers exceeds the number of minister candidates, we are uncertain if a suitable Interim Minister will be hired through the process. The Board may also consider qualified Contract Minister if they able to do interim work with us. It is expected that Minister candidate interviews will occur in late April and early May.

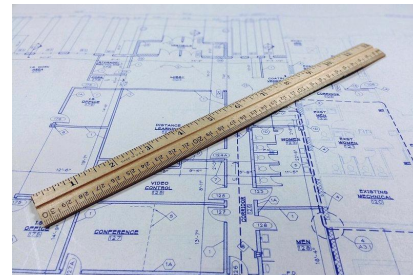
Yours in fellowship,

Trish

Trish McAleer, President
Old Ship Board of Trustees
president@oldshipchurch.org

Community Space Team

The Community Space committee has identified three well-qualified architects who are interested in the new parish house project. They have had in-depth interviews with two architects and are meeting with the third shortly. They have also met with a civil engineer (Gabe Crocker) to discuss the details of building at the 90 Main St. site. Mr. Crocker did initial analysis of the site with Atlantic Development and is familiar with it. Because of the hillside grading, drainage, and other issues, it has become clear that the committee needs to engage with a civil engineer as soon as the project is approved by the congregation, as the engineer's work will influence the architect's planning for the building. **The committee will hold open meetings Tuesday nights at 7 on zoom beginning March 26.** In addition to its Tuesday meetings, the committee will schedule additional open meetings at other times to share information and discuss considerations with the congregation.



Discussions for the next few weeks will center around the drafting of the request for proposals (rfp) to architects and an engineer. The expectation is that the rfp will be issued by mid-to-late April and that the committee will have proposals to review approximately one month later. The rfp will be based on a budget of \$2.3M plus \$200k for greening (\$2.5M total) and will detail requirements and potentially desirable elements. Through the rfp process, the committee seeks to engage one architect to produce initial conceptual drawings for a new building that can be presented to the congregation along

with a timeline, budget for construction, and potential contractor—with a vote likely to occur in early fall. The congregation will have the opportunity to review and vote on the committee's recommended plan.

[Click Here For the Zoom Link](#)

Musical Notes

Hello Old Ship,

Save the date! Our yearly Music Sunday will be on Sunday, May 19th. It's sure to be a morning full of beautiful and meaningful music. Speaking on behalf of myself, the choir, and the guest musicians -- we sincerely hope to see you there, whether it is up in the choir or out in the pews. This year's music will grapple with finding peace in a war torn world.

Musically Yours,
Christopher



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
Louise Smith
Edmund Robinson

Update from the Nominating Committee

Old Ship's Board of Trustees and Nominating Committee have multiple openings. We're very happy to have heard from a few of you but there are lots of positions that still need to be filled. The whole congregation... needs you! Whatever your experience, you can make a difference.

Please let us hear from you. You can reach us at the emails and phone numbers below. If you have any questions about what is involved, feel free to email or call any of us.

With gratitude,



Wisdom of the Poets

In honor of National Poetry Month and springtime,
2 short poems:

ANOTHER SPRING

White birds over the grey river,
Scarlet flowers on the green hills.
I watch the Spring go by and wonder
If I shall ever return home.

Chinese poet Tu Fu (713-770)

Today the sun shines
down hard making it warm
but chilly, with the cool
Breeze that comes
from nowhere; at this time of
the year, spring and
winter fight for custody
of the season.

tenth grade student, Matt Miller

comments always welcome: [Elizabeth Torrey](#)



2024 Stewardship Campaign is Underway!

April is our pledge campaign month at Old Ship. The theme this year is **Together, Step by Step**. This is a hopeful and dynamic time, as we work together to envision our new community space, contract with a new minister, take steps to rebuild the RE program, and strengthen connections with one another. While we may have many challenges before us, we are on the right and necessary path to create a bright and vibrant future for the congregation.



You should have already received a giving guide and pledge card by mail. Please complete your pledge by returning the pledge card, or contacting the office, as soon as possible. For convenience, your pledge can also be made online by visiting www.oldshipchurch.org. If you have any questions, please contact any of the Stewardship Committee members: Janet Asnes, Mary Markel Murphy, or Susannah Thomas.

The Stewardship Committee will be hosting themed coffee hours at 14 Main Street during the month of April, culminating in a **community luncheon on April 28th after church**. Please join us as often as you can to celebrate the generosity, abundance and enthusiasm present in our Old Ship community!

Sunday Flowers Donors Needed

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? April 28th and May 19th 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.



Life Learning Offerings

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



Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, April 2nd 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 Elliot](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, March 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](#)..

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning of each month at **8:30 a.m.** Our next gathering will be **April 28th** – 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.



Facing Death with Life
six Tuesdays, April 2 - May 7,
7:00 p.m., Zoom



Wise words from Socrates: “Don’t miss this opportunity to learn something about death. It is one of the greatest events in life, in fact the greatest event, because it is the culmination, the crescendo, the climax.”

Several groups of congregants have gathered in past years at Old Ship to explore this essential subject. This year’s version will begin in April. We invite you to join us for further exploration and mutual support. We will follow a similar format. Past class members are welcome to join and newcomers.

Contact [Rich Elliott](#) or [Claire Petrie](#).

Grow Old Along With Me
Elizabeth Torrey
One Wednesday, March 27, 3:00 p.m.
34 Ship Street, Hingham

Elizabeth will share a video of Julie Harris, Hume Cronyn and James Earl Jones, among others, reciting poetry about aging and talking about what getting old is like for them. Other artists, including Buddhist nun Pema Chodron, see aging as a creative process that in later years can give birth to one’s full humanity.

They deal with loneliness, give us encouragement to face our fears, and help us embrace who we have become. We learn how creative this journey into elderhood can be. The presentation will take place in Elizabeth’s home. For information, contact [Elizabeth](#).

*“When there is a great disappointment,
we don't know if that's the end of the story.
It may be just the beginning
of a great adventure.”*

— Pema Chödrön



Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

Everyone is invited to join us at our next meeting on Saturday, May 11, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Here is the link to the meeting:

[https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83141052498?
pwd=puQOw0P4WybV3S6Kq9PJ8x1HfcdPmi.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83141052498?pwd=puQOw0P4WybV3S6Kq9PJ8x1HfcdPmi.1)



Honduras Hope Forum on Sunday, April 14 after church in the parlor at 14 Main — Hingham resident Kathy Swanson is a board member of Honduras Hope. This charitable organization supports health, education, and entrepreneurship in rural Honduras. Kathy, who has spoken at Old Ship before,

will update you on these programs, including an empowerment program for girls. She also will have pine needle baskets made by women in these communities to sell. You can learn more about the organization at [Honduras Hope](#).

April Special Plate Collection: Interfaith Power and Light — In honor and recognition of Earth Day, which is on April 22, our recipient for our special plate donations this month is Interfaith Power and Light (IPL). IPL inspires and mobilizes people of faith and conscience to take bold and just action on climate change. You may learn more about the organization at [Interfaith Power and Light | Faith in action for a safe climate](#). Old Ship is one of the member congregations of the Massachusetts affiliate of IPL.

For the special plate collection, 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 on April 21. You also may make your donation online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: Interfaith Power and Light.

Earth Day Film: *Common Ground*, after church on Sunday, April 21 at 14 Main — *Common Ground*, winner of the 2023 Tribeca Film Festival, is a new film about how regenerating the world's soils has the potential to rapidly stabilize the Earth's climate, restore lost ecosystems, and create abundant food supplies. This film explains why transitioning to regenerative agriculture could be the key in rehabilitating the planet while simultaneously invigorating a new sense of hope and inspiration. Join us as we view this important film!

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group— All are invited to join us on **Sunday, April 21 at 7 p.m. on Zoom** for our discussion of *Legacy: A Black Physician Reckons with Racism in Medicine* by Uche Blackstock, MD (2024). “*Legacy* is a journey through the critical intersection of racism and healthcare. At once a searing indictment of our healthcare system, a generational family memoir, and a call to action, *Legacy* is Dr. Blackstock's odyssey from child to medical student to practicing physician—to finally seizing her own power as a health equity advocate against the backdrop of the pandemic and the Black Lives Matter movement.” Here is the Zoom link for April 21: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89490733571?pwd=9U9bJwNC5WaaOZPBA4q9nOHSyCFV3d.1>

Appreciation for Donations from Old Ship Members and Friends to the International Institute of New England — We recently sent a check for \$1,370.26 to the International Institute of New England, our February special plate recipient. Thanks to everyone who contributed to support the immigrants arriving in our greater Boston community.

Would you like to help an immigrant learn English? You can help the immigrants being served by the International Institute of New England from the comfort of your home for one hour or more per week. Tutors are badly needed for Haitian immigrants who are learning English as a second language. Materials will be provided. Tutoring is online. Please contact Old Shipper Patti Smith (patricia.t.smith@comcast.net) or IINE's Kate Waider (kwaidler@iine.org) for more information.

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: Canned Beef Stew, Ground Coffee and/or Ground Decaf Coffee, Granola Bars, Cracker Sandwiches, and Small Jars of Mayonnaise. Also, as another way to donate food, there is a box for donations at the front of the Stop and Shop in Hingham

UU the Vote Activities at Old Ship —We have signed up to be a UU the Vote “Good Trouble” Congregation in this important election year. We will be engaging in a variety of “get out the vote” activities as the year unfolds. Ellie Handleman will be leading our UU the Vote efforts. Contact her at ellie@thehandlemans.org for more information or to offer your assistance. You also may learn more about this initiative at [UU the Vote - Faith, Love, and Action. Together.](#)

News from the UU Urban Ministry:

Community Conversations: *Gatekeeping, Generational Wealth, and Collective Liberation* on April 9, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM —This event, organized by the students in Roxbury Youth Programs (RYP), will examine the issue of housing in the neighborhoods they call home. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88647567613>.

Program Spotlight & Open House: May 02, 2024, 5:00 – 7:00 PM — Join the UUUM team and program participants and hear about their work, programs, and see their campus. Food and refreshments will be served. UUUM Is located at 10 Putnam St, Boston, MA 02119. If you are interested in attending, Ellie Handleman is planning to attend and would welcome others to ride into UUUM with her. Contact her at ellie@thehandlemans.org. The UUUM is again working with the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute in supporting the Mother’s Day Walk for Peace, which takes place on Sunday, May 12. If you are interested in participating, contact Ellie Handleman at ellie@thehandlemans.org.

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. Also, if you have an action alert you think our list would like to know about, please send it to Davalene and she will send it out as long as it fits the advocacy requirement for items. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.

Save the date! Annual Old Ship Plant Sale Saturday, May 18

Calling all Old Shippers with gardens – the annual Old Ship Plant Sale will be held on the lawn in front of the Meeting House on Saturday May 18th. As the days warm up and your perennials start poking their heads out of the ground, please consider digging and potting up for the plant sale. Please carefully label your plants with as much information as possible about habit, height and bloom time including a photo or a picture of the flower if you have one. We find that having photos helps shoppers envision how the plant will look in their yard and this is one of the secrets to the huge success of



our plant sales over the past years. If you don't have a home garden but would like to help, there are other ways to be involved which include potting up at Brenda Black's house in April, bagging up composted horse manure for sale, transporting plants from Brenda's house to the Meeting House on May 17th, and of course, helping out the day of the sale. If you have any questions or need pots, need help digging and potting plants up, please contact Janice McPhillips at jbbmcpillips@gmail.com or 781-249-9141. Thank you!

SPRING CLEANING

Spring Cleaning = Merrie Market Treasures!

If anyone was inspired by Rev. Edmund's sermon last Sunday titled "Spring Cleaning" or inspired by your own seasonal deep clean and find treasures to let go... please consider donating to Merrie Market's "Treasures" Table

Merrie Market may be 273 days away, but never too early to begin collecting treasures!

Please drop off at 14 Main Street between 9-2pm or reach out to Lisa at 617-529-1192 or pattersonlisa66@gmail.com for pick-up of your items. Thanks!



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 Meeting** - Tuesday, March 26- 7:00 p.m.
Zoom Click [Here for the Zoom Link](#)
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Sunday, March 31, 9:00 a.m.
- **Committee on Ministry** - Monday, April 1, 5:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor
- **Stewardship Committee** - Monday, April 1, 6:00 Zoom
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday., April 2, 1:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor
- **Community Space Team Meeting** - Tuesday, April 2 - 7:00 p.m. Zoom
Click [Here for the Zoom Link](#)
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, April 4 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) Agenda will be available in next week's update

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!



Office Closed

The week of Monday, March 25 through March 29th, Lisa will be out of the office. She will return on Monday, April 1st at 9:00 AM. If you need assistance during this time, please reach out to [Reverend Edmund Robinson](#).



**Happy Easter
from your friends at
Old Ship Church!**

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

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