



First Parish, Hingham  
**Old Ship Church**

Unitarian Universalist  
14 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043  
(781) 749-1679  
[office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org) [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

## May 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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***Deadline for June's newsletter: Tuesday, May 21, 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, May 5 "Is Evil Afloat?"**

Herman Melville's Moby-Dick can be read as an allegory where the white whale represents pure evil. But to see it that way is to take on the maniacal point of view of the captain of the Pequod.

### **Sunday, May 12 "Love One a Mother "**

Motherhood is often portrayed as an overwhelming instinct to sacrifice the mother's interests in order to protect their child. But does this actually occur in nature? Are real parents good models for the unconditional love attributed to the divine by the religious imagination?

### **Sunday, May 19 Music Sunday**

Christopher will lead the choir in our annual tradition of Music Sunday, with an exploration of War and Peace through music.

### **Sunday, May 26 "Memory on a Pedestal"**

How do we remember loved ones who have passed? What do we do with the



## May Musings [Physician-assisted death] Rev. Edmund Robinson



A few in this congregation are interested in supporting a piece of legislation now making its way through the legislature, to provide medical assistance in dying for terminally ill people faced with the prospect of great pain and suffering. I am glad to encourage this interest because UUs tend to have a practical approach to terminal suffering, and so many other religious groups just reflexively oppose anyone "playing God" with death.

But I don't think it is very productive to use the word "suicide" in connection with medical care in the final days. We had a talk in the local interfaith clergy group about suicide as a social problem, but the more we discussed it, the more it seemed to be multiple problems. In other words, we might set out with the best of intentions trying to make sure anyone who was contemplating taking his or her own life had access to phone counseling. But suppose it turned out that there were different demographics for different suicides. There might be one pattern for teenage boys and another pattern for middle-aged men and another pattern for teenage girls or people with substance abuse problem. And someone contemplating taking their own life because of the breakup of a marriage or firing from a job presents a very different state of mind from someone who wants to short-circuit his suffering in the last stages of an aggressive cancer.

My father ended his own life at age 61, when I was 27. He did not consult any family members before he did the act. Had I been aware of his intentions, I would have made every effort to talk him out of it. It is deeply disturbing to me still, 40 years later.

In short, I am in favor of active suicide prevention in a community, in hotlines to discuss personal problems. But I am also in favor of giving terminally ill patients under carefully controlled circumstances the option to have medical assistance in hastening their death.

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](mailto:edmund@gmail.com) (yes, that's two "u"s).

### May Board of Trustees Updates

The Board of Trustees (BOT) met on April 2nd and April 9th this month for business meetings. Below are some notable items not discussed elsewhere in the newsletter.

**Minister Emeritus Article:** Longtime members Joan Wilson and Fan Leonard have submitted



an article proposing emeritus status be granted to Rev. Ken Read-Brown. Per Old Ship bylaws, this article will be voted on at the Annual Meeting. An information meeting on this article led by Joan and Fan was held on April 7.

**Ministry Search Team (MST):** Our church profile has been published on the UUA site in preparation of ministerial candidates expressing interest. The MST expects to interview candidates in early May. We hope a new minister will be chosen by mid-May.

**Treasurer's Report:** Treasurer Jack Gomez shared that we are on pace to end the fiscal year with a surplus of about \$30,000 - \$40,000 mostly due to no Religious Education expenses. Overall, we have a surplus of \$245,000, \$100,000 of this is considered our rainy-day fund. At the January BOT meeting, Treasurer Gomez proposed reducing the number of banking relationships we have. He suggested closing the line of credit we had with Eastern Bank and this is in process. Jack has applied for a similar line of credit at Rockland Trust and that process is ongoing and he is waiting for approval. The line of credit can be used if we need money in a hurry.

**Capital Campaign Committee Formed:** In the April 2nd meeting, it was proposed that a capital campaign fundraising committee be established. That capital campaign committee needs to be able to tell people what their donation will be put towards and that info is not available yet. In the April 9th meeting, the BOT agreed to form a committee initially composed of Elaine Gomez, Nina Wellford, and Jack Gomez. The BOT will provide oversight over the committee. The Capital Campaign Committee will also coordinate with the building team. It was agreed that the committee should begin to raise money after the vote to build the new building has been taken.

**Critical Projects for the Meeting House:** On April 11th the BOT discussed Phase 1 (critical and immediate) and Phase 2 (less urgent) projects as described by the building committee. The Phase 1 Critical projects (necessary in the next 12 months) include an upgrade to the Audio Visual (AV) system and plaster repair within the Meeting House. Very rough estimates indicate these two projects would total approximately \$65,000. Ron Pollara and Tom Willson are working on getting firm estimates. There is \$26,000 sitting in an account from surplus and that money can be used to cover those costs. The money in the budget from this year and next could be added to cover the complete costs. Phase 2 projects can be delayed to subsequent years. \$20,000 in building maintenance is required each year but we can't afford that. It was suggested we think about tapping the endowment to address these critical Meeting House projects.

**Board & Nominating Committee Downsizing Article:** As there has been continued difficulty filling open Board and Nominating Committee positions, the BOT has proposed that the number of elected members on both the Board of Trustees and the Nominating Committee be reduced. Also, as no youth have volunteered to serve on the BOT in the last several years, the BOT propose to removing the requirement of a seat to be held a youth member on the BOT. It was acknowledged that youth in our congregation may still become board members if they are members of the church and this is described elsewhere in the bylaws (they are at least 16 years of age (14 if the student has completed the Coming-of-Age program.) It was proposed that the by-laws be amended to read as follows:

First Parish Hingham By-laws Article V, Sec 1(h), shall be amended to require a reduction in the number of Board Trustees-at-large from five to three.

First Parish Hingham By-laws Article V, Sec. 1 (j) and Article V, Sec 3 (f) shall be amended to require a reduction in the number of members on the Nominating Committee from five to three.

A warrant article including these changes will be drafted and voted on at the annual meeting. Also discussed was continuing to require a quorum of 5 board members be present to hold a board meeting and also require 4 votes to pass a motion.

Yours in fellowship,

**Trish**

Trish McAleer, President  
Old Ship Board of Trustees  
[president@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:president@oldshipchurch.org)

## Community Space Team

The Parish Community Space team has sent RFPs to architects and engineers and will not be meeting while waiting for proposals to be submitted. The next team meeting will be Tuesday, May 14th, at 7 p.m.



The zoom information is:  
[https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86795549927?](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86795549927?pwd=dHVjK0dlMkc1VU1rUUUV4cjRFN1Vrdz09)  
[pwd=dHVjK0dlMkc1VU1rUUUV4cjRFN1Vrdz09](https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86795549927?pwd=dHVjK0dlMkc1VU1rUUUV4cjRFN1Vrdz09)

## Musical Notes

Hello Old Ship,

May is an important month for music at Old Ship. I sincerely hope that you can join us on Sunday, May 19th for Music Sunday, an exploration of War and Peace through music. It will surely be a morning of beautiful and meaningful music meant to foster contemplation. We will have guest musicians and special music throughout the service. Please come join us and bring a friend!



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**

**Committee on Ministry  
Community Discussion  
Sunday, May 5  
12:00 P.M. (after the service)  
Meeting House**



This spring Edmund has been discussing some of the topics brought forward by the UUA's "Amplifying the Charge"; an overview of the proposed changes to our 7 Principles to be voted upon at this year's General Assembly. We've also been contemplating what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist as well as a member Old Ship.

Please join the Committee on Ministry for a discussion after the service on May 5th. Similar to last year's listening circles, we will be asked to talk about one or two specific questions.

We hope to see you there

**Annual Plant Sale  
Saturday, May 18, 2024  
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.  
Meeting House**



The annual Old Ship Plant Sale is being held on the lawn in front of the Meeting House on Saturday May 18, 2024 from 9am – 1pm. We need help in many areas – if you have a garden and can pot-up some perennials to share, please do so. Please carefully label your plants with as much information as possible including growth habit, height and bloom time. It's great if you can include a photo or a picture of the flower. 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. There are many other ways to help with the plant sale including potting up, bagging up composted manure for sale, setting up on May 17. For questions about any of that, please contact **Janice McPhillips**. We also need help on the day of the plant sale and please contact

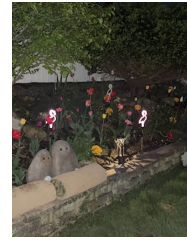
[Louise Smith](#) to sign up for a shift. Thank you!

## Garden Decorations/Art

As part of the plant sale this year (May 18th), we are looking for gently used garden decorations/art to sale as well. Garden Treasures include nice planting pots, statues, gnomes, bird baths... Any item that will brighten up a garden. Items can be brought to the Meeting House where they can be dropped off by the shed that it is behind the bell tower.

For more information call

[Diane Elliott](#) at 781 264 6234.



## Wisdom of the Poets

### BEGINNERS

But we have only begun to love  
the earth. We have only begun  
to imagine the fullness of life.

How could we tire of hope -  
so much is in bud.

How can desire fail? - we have only  
begun to imagine justice and mercy,

Only begun to envision how it  
might be to live as siblings with  
beast and flower, not as oppressors.

Surely our river cannot already be  
hastening into the sea of nonbeing?

Surely it cannot drag, in the silt,  
all that is innocent?

Not yet, not yet - there is too much  
broken that must be mended,

Too much hurt that we have done  
to each other that cannot yet be  
forgiven.

We have only begun to know the  
power that is in us if we would join  
our solitudes in the communion of  
struggle.

So much is unfolding that must  
complete the gesture, so much is  
in bud.

Denise Levertov

comments always welcome: [Elizabeth Torrey](#)



## Stewardship Campaign Wrap Up

This year's Stewardship Campaign officially ended on April 28<sup>th</sup>. The annual campaign raises funds to support our operational budget; it is the monetary expression of our values and our hopes for the future. As we prepare to construct a new space to meet, work, share and learn, it is vitally important that we understand, as a congregation, what our financial obligations and goals are. We need to be clear on what we can responsibly budget for to plan for our future.



Thank you to everyone who has pledged so far. Yes, money is important. But equally as important is demonstrating our level of commitment to our congregation. So, whether you pledged \$10, \$100, \$1000 or more, we are incredibly grateful to YOU! If you would still like to pledge, please return your pledge card to the office at 14 Main Street or [Click Here](#) to pledge online.

We have had so much fun connecting with so many church members and friends through our themed fellowship hours and having conversations that matter. We hope you have enjoyed this time too!

With love and gratitude,

Janet Asnes, Mary Markel-Murphy, Susannah Thomas  
Your 2024/2025 Stewardship Team

## Ceilidh Help Wanted!

Ceilidh is in need of a new assistant to send out our monthly Ceilidh email notice. Is there someone in the congregation that knows about distribution lists?, other email options or maybe someone could help me learn , ... ?

Thank you, Eric E. Cornetta at [EECornetta@aol.com](mailto:EECornetta@aol.com) or home phone 781 740-0628



## 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, May 7th at 7:00 p.m** We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor as well as on Zoom. Email [Eric Cornetta](#) with any questions about Ceilidh `` The zoom link is: <https://zoom.us/j/92888235659>



## The Gathering

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

[Valentine.](#)

### **Sacred Texts Meditation Group**

**Next gathering: Thursday, May 9th**

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

Second and fourth Thursday afternoons

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

**Bodhisattva Study Group** - Every Sunday morning, 8:30 AM. Zoom only. Twenty minutes of sitting meditation followed by discussion of a Buddhist or related text, facilitated by 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 **May 26** – in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and, for the Zoom link.

### **Fellowship Hour & Snacks**

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



### **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



### **Be a Meeting House Tour Guide!**

Did you know that people come from around the U.S. and even from other countries to visit the Meeting House? It's an iconic building with a compelling history. We will be training a new set of tour guides who can share its history with folks who may stop by for a tour during the summer. The doors will be open on Wednesday, Thursday, and Saturday 10 - 1 from July 3 to August 31 - you can choose one or more days as they fit your schedule. It is a wonderful way to enjoy a summer day and welcome visitors to Hingham. Any questions





or if you are interested or know others who are interested, please contact Bev Vernon - 617-529-2867 or email [bbvernon39@gmail.com](mailto:bbvernon39@gmail.com), or Nina Wellford - 781-223-3410 or [ninawellford@gmail.com](mailto:ninawellford@gmail.com).

## 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>

**What do you think we should do at Old Ship to combat racism and white supremacy culture?** Our SJC meeting on May 11 will focus on our Old Ship commitment to combat racism and white supremacy culture. Everyone is invited to attend our meeting and offer their ideas on these issues and how we can do more to lead to changes in our community. This is part of our work to create the beloved community, here at Old Ship and beyond. Please join us on Zoom (the link is above). If you are unable to attend, but have ideas of next steps, feel free to contact a member of the SJC. Thanks for your input!

**May Special Plate Collection: Pink Haven Coalition** — The Pink Haven Coalition was formed in response to the increasingly hostile legislative environment in the United States that seeks to eradicate transgender people from public life. This coalition, which includes both the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) and the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC), is working to create networks of safety and direct support for transgendered people and their families. In addition to provide a variety of resources and information, the coalition helps people to relocate and to access health care across state lines. You may learn more about this important work at [Home - Pink Haven Coalition](#). Additionally, the most recent print edition of the UUA World includes an article about this important work. It also is available online at [Relocation Help for Trans People: Progressive Faith Coalition Takes Action | UU World Magazine](#).

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 May 19. 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: Pink Haven.

**Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group**— All are invited to join us on **Sunday, May 19 at 7 p.m. on Zoom** for our discussion of the second half of Michele Norris's book, *Our Hidden Conversations*. We will discuss the final chapters (7-12). Laura Harbottle will lead our discussion. Here is the Zoom link for this meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83673400215?pwd=Me3X3XcMla4aCrwTNX1HGep5FHb8yN.1>

**Appreciation for Donations from Old Ship Members and Friends to MainSprings & Father Bill's** — We recently sent a check for \$1,268.25 to MainSpring & Father Bill's, our March special plate recipient. Thanks to everyone who contributed to support the clients served by this important organization on the South Shore.

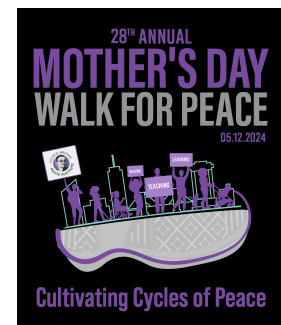
**Hingham Food Pantry** — We collect food each week for the Hingham Food Pantry. Please leave your donations in the bins located in the vestibule of the Meeting House and at 14 Main Street. Items especially needed this month include the following: Cracker Sandwiches, Cookies, Crackers, and Beans, specifically garbanzo, kidney, cannelloni, and pinto. Also, as another way to donate food, there is a box for donations at the front of the Stop and Shop in Hingham.

**UU Urban Ministry: 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](mailto: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](mailto:Davalene.Cooper), Keeper of the List.

**Mother's Day Walk for Peace  
Sunday, May 12th at 8:00 a.m.  
Dorchester, MA**

Old Ship will be gathering a team to participate in the Annual Mother's Day Walk for Peace. It begins at 8 a.m. on Mother's Day (May 12) in Dorchester, walks through neighborhoods for about 4 miles, and participants can expect to be home for lunch. It is a fundraiser for a very worthwhile charity that does good work supporting families of homicide victims. Register at <https://ldbpeaceinstitute.org/>. Contact Ellie Handleman ([ellie@thehandlemans.org](mailto:ellie@thehandlemans.org)/(781)985-2659) for more information. If you can't walk but would like to support the team, you can do so at <https://www.mothersdaywalk4peace.org/Team/View/192633/Old-Ship-Church>.



**Save the Date:  
Annual Meeting  
Sunday, May 19th  
12:00 P.M.  
Meeting House**



**Walking in Someone Else's Shoes:  
Sunday, May 26 12:00 PM  
14 Main St Parlor**

Congregants discuss their experiences in the Middle East and the value of multiple perspectives in the Unitarian Universalist's quest for social justice and equity. Middle Eastern snacks will be served.



## 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

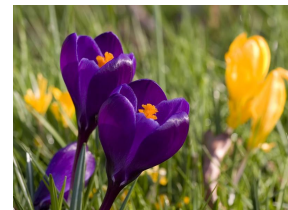
- **Board of Trustees Meeting** - Thursday, May 2, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) [Click here for the agenda](#)
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Sunday, May 5, 9:00 a.m. Meeting House
- **Committee on Ministry** - Monday, May 6, 5:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor

## 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 Spring  
from your friends at  
Old Ship Church!**



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