



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
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June 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for the Summer newsletter: Tuesday, June 18, 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!](#)



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY
VIRTUAL GA • JUNE 20 - 23, 2024

Sunday, June 2

"A new covenant?"

If the UUA congregations adopt the changes in article II, what will change in the congregations?

Sunday, June 9

"La Vie En Fraise"

What would happen if you saw life through a strawberry?

Sunday, June 16

Annual Flower Communion and Coming of Age Service

What the next generation is thinking.

We will be celebrating our high school seniors and COA graduates. Bring a flower to add to our beautiful bouquet of flowers and take a different flower home with you! There will be extra flowers for people who don't have flowers growing. Last service of the regular season.

Sunday, June 23
Summer Services

Summer services will begin in the Meeting House at 10:30 A.M.

Sunday, June 30
Summer Services

Summer services in the Meeting House at 10:30 A.M.

Minister's musings for June, 2024
Rev. Edmund Robinson

Lines I wish I had written:

"And what is so rare as a day in June?
Then, if ever, come perfect days
Heaven tries earth if it be in tune,
And over it softly her warm ear lays."



Those lines are from a longer poem by James Russell Lowell, a bucolic idyll entitled "The Vision of Sir Launfal," which is rarely quoted in full. As June is my birth month, (as well as the birth month of my son and grandson and my wedding anniversary with Jacqueline) I am partial to this description of its sweet splendor. The idea that a month could be "in tune" and the heaven is the tuner, laying her (heaven is female! who knew?) warm ear over it.

Lowell's lines have echoes of the Pythagoreans, a sect of pre-Socratic philosophers of ancient Greece. Ancient observers of the heavens had noted that the position of the stars was generally fixed. They made up certain constellations and the shape of those constellations was the same from night to night. But then there were three other types of heavenly bodies which seemed to come and go on different schedules: the sun, the moon and the five visible planets.

The Pythagoreans were very interested in music, and it was they who discovered that if you pluck a vibrating string you will get a note of a certain pitch, and if you stop the vibrating halfway up the length of the string, it will give you a note that is exactly an octave higher than the first one. They put music and astronomy together in a theory that all the heavenly bodies were on nested glass spheres which rotated across the sky at different rates. The fixed stars were the outermost bowl and then there was one bowl for each planet, one for the sun and one for the moon. Each bowl had a god or goddess sitting on it and singing, each in a different pitch, the way a glass will resonate if you rub it on the rim. Part of the Pythagoreans' musical training was trying to sit still enough to hear this "Music of the Spheres," and that is what I think of when I read Lowell's lines about June.

Have a happy summer!

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 June Update

The Board of Trustees met on May 2nd for our monthly business meeting. Also on May 19th, the Board oversaw our Annual Parish Meeting. Below are some items to note from those meetings and other updates not discussed elsewhere.



Budget Deficit: As of May 26th, we have 95 pledges for FY 2024/2025 totaling \$252,809. A \$290,000 budget was approved at Annual Meeting on May 19. As a deficit is likely, the Board will meet in special session later next month to discuss options going forward.

The Building Committee: Building committee members Tom Willson and Nina Wellford attended on May 2nd with an update on the following items:

- Friends of the Old Ship Meeting House will become a member-based organization as of June 2024. Benefits of membership include knowledge that they are supporting Old Ship Meeting House, a free tour and a packet of Old Ship note cards.
- Redoing the Sound system is on the list of phase 1 of building projects. We need a sound system that has microphones, zoom capabilities, and a hearing aid system. The majority portion of the cost estimated at \$40,000 of this will be covered by grants.
- An anonymous donor has offered a generous donation toward a new heating system for the meeting house. Donor will fund a study of HVAC options for the meeting house heating repairs. It will be determined if it is more cost effective to have two independent heating systems for the Meeting House and the Community Building or a larger combined system.
- Plaster in the alcove needs fixing. More water damage in the front left of the sanctuary needs repairing. This is not covered by a grant. The cost of plaster repairs will likely be less than 25K so no Parish Vote approval will be needed.
- Our church insurance company wants us to put in a shut off valve for the water that comes into the building from the street. Repair is needed of the old rusty pipe that comes from the street. This needs to be considered a phase 1 high priority repair.

Nurturing Community Committee: Nurturing Community member Diane Elliott spoke at the May 2 meeting. Diane proposed that the Worship and Music Committee and the Nurturing Community Committee work together next year. Both committee need more members to function effectively.

May 19th Annual Meeting

Board & Nominating Committee Downsizing Approved: The parish

approved changes to our bylaws articles to reduce the size of our Board of Trustees to seven members and the Nominating Committee to three members. Also approved was a change to no longer specifically require a youth member on the Board of Trustees. We note that this does not preclude a youth member from being elected.

Elected Positions: The parish elected the following members for the 2024-2025 church year:

Board of Trustees: President: Trish McAleer, Vice President: Janice McPhillips, Treasurer: Clayton Handleman Clerk: Elaine Cusker, Trustees At-Large: Karen Churchill, Dennis Hogan, Cory Fitz-Marquez Nominating Committee; Susannah Thomas, Joan Wilson and Dana Kintigh. Collector: Rich Elliott, Assistant Collector: Eric Espinosa Trustees of Invested Funds: Mike Dwyer, Craig Russ, Janet Asnes, Ralph Brown and David Murphy.

Emeritus Article Approved: The congregation unanimously approved bestowing Rev. Ken Read-Brown with Minister Emeritus status. Rev. Ken's Designation will become formal in August. Look for information on a parish celebration to honor Rev. Emeritus Read-Brown this fall.

Endorsement of UUA Article 2: The parish voted to encourage our 3 delegates to the UUA General Assembly, held virtually this year, to vote "Yes" on the proposed changed to Article 2 of the UUA bylaws.

Yours in fellowship,

Trish

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

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

It's hard to believe, but the church year is already coming to an end. We've had many moments of wonderful music this year, most recently at our annual Music Sunday. I was happy to see a good number of people there to support the choir and experience a morning of meaningful music. I truly appreciate all the kind words and heartfelt messages. On behalf of myself and the choir -- thank you! I hope that this summer is full of joy, fun, and memory making. I look forward to seeing you in September!

Musically,
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

WISDOM OF THE POETS

No longer forward or behind in hope or fear;
but, grateful, take the good I find, the best of now and here.

I break my pilgrim staff, I lay aside the toiling oar;
the angel I sought so far away I welcome at my door.
For all the jarring notes of life seem blending in a psalm,
and all the angles of its strife slow rounding into calm.
And so the shadows fall apart, and so the west winds play,
and all the windows of my heart I open to the day.



John Greenleaf Whittier, 1807-1892
Massachusetts poet and abolitionist.

responses always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com

Minister Search Team Update

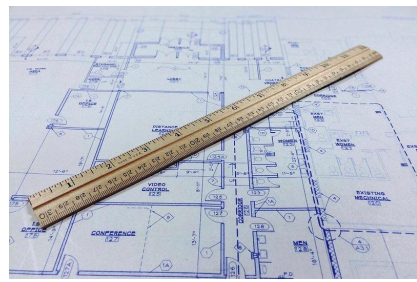
Our search team unfortunately, after interviewing three candidates, did not match with a minister. Consequently, we are now engaged in a Contract Minister search process with the UUA and will be interviewing Contract Ministry candidates this month. We will provide another update when this process is complete. If you have questions about the process, or next steps, please reach out to a team member. We are committed to the process and to being creative and persistent, on behalf of the congregation. Stay tuned!



The Minister Search Team: Maureen Butler, Karen Churchill, Ellie Handleman, Dennis Hogan, Trish McAleer & Janice McPhillips

Community Space Team

The Community Space Building Committee is in discussions with the architects and civil engineers who responded to the RFPs with the aim of clarifying the specifics of their responses and selecting one of each for Phase 1 — Pre-Design / Design Concepts and Drawings for Owner Approval. The committee is then aiming to make a proposal to the Old Ship Board at their June meeting and, if approved, to contract with the chosen architect and engineer soon thereafter. The objective of Phase 1 is for the architect and engineer to prepare enough of a conceptual plan, along with preliminary drawings, over the summer for the committee to present them to the congregation for a vote in September/October in the hopes of gaining approval to move forward with the detailed design and construction."



Committee on Ministry Community Discussion Sunday, June 2 12:00 P.M. (after the service) 14 Main St Parlor/Zoom

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 of Old Ship.



Please join the Committee on Ministry for a discussion after the service on June 2nd. 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. [Click Here for the Zoom Link](#)

Strawberry Shortcake! Sunday, June 9 at 11:45 A.M. Meeting House

That wonderful treat will highlight *A Celebration of Edmund/The Strawberry Celebration* that will take place outside the Meeting House after Sunday Services on June 9.



The celebration, hosted by the Pastoral Care Leadership Team, will honor Rev. Edmund Robinson and the time he has spent as the contract minister for Old Ship.

Rev. Robinson's last regular Sunday service at Old Ship will take place on

June 16.

Rev. Robinson began his service with Old Ship on August 1, 2023. Prior to then, he had spent two years as the interim minister at First Church Boston, Unitarian Universalist.

Members of the Pastoral Care group are arranging the gathering. Joan Wilson will bake shortcakes. Dennis Hogan will find local strawberries, and Louise Smith and Fan Leonard will prepare the berries for the cakes. Claire Petrie will make the whipped cream that will top the shortcakes and berries.

Liz Flint will bring enough lemonade and iced tea to slake people's thirst.

Elaine and Jack Gomez are providing a tent to shield the affair from either rain or sunshine.

Rev. Robinson will lead some celebratory music. Other musical Old Shippers are invited to join him. Let members of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team know in advance that you want to perform, and bring your instruments!

Members and friends of the congregation are encouraged to join the party to celebrate Rev. Robinson — and to enjoy the strawberries!

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, June 4th 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, June 13th
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](#).

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning of each month at **8:30 a.m.** Our next gathering will be **June 23rd** – 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, June 2nd**. 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 Celebration - Sunday, June 16

Please come and help celebrate three Old Ship teens who are completing their Coming of Age class. Our teens will share their faith statements with our congregation and be celebrated after at a family luncheon. For more information contact [Maureen Butler](#) or cell: (617) 877 - 5204



Meeting House (MH) Tour Guide Opportunities!

During the summer, from July 3 to Labor Day, many folks tour Hingham's historic gems, including our own 1681 Meeting House. The Friends of the Meeting House would like to increase the number of MH Tour Guides-it is interesting work! Also, you meet nice people. Set tour times, over the summer, are Wed/Thur/Sat from 10AM to 1PM, and many of the slots are filled already. (Tours, at other times, can be arranged through the Old Ship Office.) Newbies can partner with a more experienced guide. Basically, you bring your script, a lawn chair, a lunch, and a book, and you are all set! We have two upcoming training sessions: Sunday, June 23, 11:30-12:30PM, and Wednesday 4:00-5:00PM, at the Meeting House (naturally). Please join us! Questions: Elaine Gomez (781-820-4077, eh-gomez@comcast.net)



Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

UU the Vote Activities — Old Ship has signed up to be a "good trouble congregation" through the UU the Vote Program. We anticipate there will be opportunities this summer to participate in phone banks, text banks, and postcard writing. If you would like to be informed of these opportunities, Ellie Handleman is creating an email list and will contact people as these opportunities arise. To be on this list, send an email to ellie@thehandlemans.org.



Also, on June 6, Texas UU Justice Ministry is having a free, virtual event: a conversation with Steve Phillips about his book *How We Win the Civil War: Securing a Multiracial Democracy and Ending White Supremacy for Good*. To register, go to sidewithlove.org and scroll through upcoming events until you get to June 6.

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group— Books have been selected for the first six months of the next church year; we do not meet during the summer. Here is the list in case you want to begin reading this summer.

September 15 -- *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis* (2020), edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katherine K. Wilkinson.

October 20 -- *The Black Box: Writing the Race* (2024) by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

November 17 -- *Wandering Stars* (2024) by Tommy Orange.

January 19 -- *In Search of Beloved Community: John Lewis* (2024) by Raymond Arsenault.

February 16 -- *1001 Voices on Climate Change: Everyday Stories of Flood, Fire, Drought, and Displacement from Around the World* (2021) by Devi Lockwood.

March 16 -- *Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor* (2015) by Dr. Jim O'Connell.

We will again meet on the third Sunday of the month at 7 p.m. on Zoom. We do not meet in December. All are welcomed to join us.

Appreciation for Donations from Old Ship Members and Friends to Interfaith Power and Light — We recently sent a check for \$623 to Interfaith Power & Light, our April special plate recipient. Thanks to everyone who contributed to support the work of this important organization. We do not have special/outreach plates during the summer months, but we will resume with them in October. Thanks to everyone who supported our recipients this past year! This is one of the ways in which we help to create a more just and fair world!

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: Granola Bars, Cracker Sandwiches, Beef Stew, Side Dishes, Cookies, Crackers, Ketchup, Mayonnaise (small jars), Instant Coffee or Instant Decaf Coffee, and Diapers in sizes 4, 5, 6, or 7. Donations also can be made at the Stop and Shop in Hingham.

Summer Planning Meeting on July 28 at 4 p.m. — If you would like to be a member of the Social Justice Council, please attend our summer planning meeting. Contact [Davalene Cooper](mailto:Davalene.Cooper@uuurban.org) for more details regarding this in-person meeting. Everyone is welcome to be part of our social justice work at Old Ship. Additionally, we thank everyone who has supported our work this past church year by attending our programs and supporting our outreach efforts.

Summer Concerts at the UU Urban Ministry — The Makanda Project will have three jazz concerts this summer at the Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam Street

in Boston. Everyone is invited to attend these free concerts under the summer sky in the heart of Roxbury. Here are the dates for the concerts: Saturday, July 13th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, Saturday, August 17th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm, and Saturday, September 14th from 1:00pm - 4:00pm.

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.



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

- **Choir Rehearsal** - Sunday, June 2, 9:30 a.m. Meeting House
- **Committee on Ministry** - Monday, June 3, 5:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor
- **Board of Trustees Meeting** - Thursday, June 6, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor;
[Click here for the Zoom Link](#) Agenda will be 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!



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



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