



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
14 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

July 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for August newsletter: Monday, July 22, 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, June 30
Karen Churchill
Storytelling

"Storytelling is an art that has been around for centuries. It's the oldest form of human expression and is still as powerful today as it was back then." Please join Karen Churchill on Sunday to discuss why storytelling is so important in our lives.



Summer Services

On June 23rd, summer services began. Services start at 10:30 a.m. and will be in person in the Meeting house as well as on Zoom. Each service is hosted by the Worship and Music Committee and a guest speaker. The Zoom link is our usual [Sunday worship link](#)

If you have a joy, sorrow, or concern you would



like to share at any of the summer services,
please email our Worship and Music Committee liason [Karen Churchill](#) or text
Karen at 781-812-5518

If you would like to be a speaker there are dates available. Don't be shy and let
your voice be heard.

Here's the schedule of July and August's Sunday services:

July 7 Rev. Edmund Robinson's Music Service
July 14 SJC shows film, "Cooked: Survival by Zip Code."
July 21 Mike Dwyer with "When is Work Spiritual?"
July 28 TBA
August 4 TBA
August 11 Paula Nesoff with "The Importance of Bereavement in the World"
August 18 Elizabeth Torrey Poetry Service
August 25 Clayton Handleman hosts Bluegrass Sunday
September 1 Catherine Mayes Meditation Service

And more to be announced!
We look forward to sharing with you all summer long.

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

One of the oldest lecture series in America is the Berry Street Essay. It was started when William Ellery Channing was minister of the Federal Street Church in downtown Boston. As I remember the story, Berry Street was a side street to the church and the minister's office had a door opening onto it. So the lecturer series arose out of periodic meetings that the ministers had in those days.



In my time, the Berry Street Essay has always been the last event at Ministry Days, the three-day meeting of members of the UU Minister's Association (UUMA). A different speaker is chosen every year. This year it was Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie, long-time and recently retired minister of the Arlington Street Church in Boston's Back Bay.

I well knew her talents as a preacher, because I had recruited her to preach at my installation in Chatham in 2009. But her Berry Street preaching yesterday reached a whole new level.

Her title was typical Kim wordplay: "Mystery Loves Company." The central thesis, illustrated by many heart-opening stories, was that in a denomination with as broad a range of theologies as UU has, the job of the minister is to keep us awake and open to the mysteries that surround us at all times. In Rilke's words, to live the questions instead of "solving" or trying to "answer" them.

It was a bravura, open, moving articulation of where this religion is at today. If you are interested in viewing it, it is on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tj69V7m8_b8

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 July Update

The Board of Trustees met on June 6th for our monthly business meeting and again for a special session June 20th. Below are some items of note from those meetings not discussed elsewhere:



Next Minister Hired! Based on the strong recommendation of our Minister Search Team, we are very pleased to announce that the Board has hired Rev. Carie Johnsen (she/her) to be our next contract Minister. Rev. Carie has over 15 years of experience in Congregational Ministry and Chaplaincy. A fuller biography of Rev. Carie can be found [at this link](#). Rev. Carie will officially come on board August 1st. We are very excited to work in close partnership with Rev Carie in this next year. Congratulates to the Ministry Search Team on a job well done!

Budget Discussions Though a budget of was approved at the Annual Meeting, due to lower than expected pledges, a deficit of 50K currently exists. The Board discussed several options for closing this fiscal gap to include using a surplus of funds remaining from last year. Also considered was requesting members to increase their pledges when possible. The Board will revisit the budget again this fall in collaboration with our new minister. Should an budget adjustment be needed, a revised budget will presented for Congregation approval.

The Building Committee: Though the efforts of Ron Pollara, Nina Wellford, and Tom Willson we have received a grant for \$11,141 from the the Greenbush Historic Trust which will be used toward a new sound system for the Meeting House. Other funds to support the new sound system will come from a \$3,500 grant from the Reynolds Family Trust, Friends of the Meeting House will contribute \$7,000 to the project. Roy Harris and Eileen McIntyre will contribute \$2,500 to the project as well. The remainder of the funds required will come from the Old Ship budget. Also the engraving on the Minister's plaque with Ken's retirement date was completed and the plaque has been rehung. Lastly, the Friends of Old Ship Meeting House will be starting a Pew Cleaning Project on July 9th and are looking for volunteers to participate. Please contact Nina Wellford or Janice McPhillips if you'd like more information.

Children's RE Next Year: As members have expressed support for a reimagined Children's Religious Education program, the Board has agreed to oversee an outreach this fall to gauge the interest and commitment from our Old Ship families. We note that our 2024/2025 budget earmarks approximately 46K for a DRE and RE program expenses.

Yours in fellowship,

Trish

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

Pastoral Care Needs During the Summer

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team will not be meeting again until the end of August. If you have a pastoral concern or need help, please contact any member of the Pastoral Care Leadership Team listed below. We will do our best to assist you.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy summer!



[Ralph Brown](#)

[Liz Flint](#) 508-560-1572

[Elaine Gomez](#) 781 820 4077.

[Fan Leonard](#) 781-749-2852

[Claire Petrie](#) 617-642-2438

[Joan Wilson](#) 617-947-4664

[Louise Smith](#) 781-690-1165

[Edmund Robinson](#) (until July 31st) 617-710-0508

[Carie Johnson](#) (starting August 1st) 781-749-1679

WISDOM OF THE POETS

HAND IN HAND

It would be a stretch indeed
If everyone in the world
Could pause and join hands,
An endless ring around earth's middle, A circle of
beating hearts and peaceful thoughts.
That would be impossible some would say;
Mountains and oceans would get in the way
But no more so than the gulfs between us,
Rifts of our own making: greed, suspicion, ignorance.
Holding hands would mean no fists to clench,
Or fingers free to fire guns, or press a button
To bomb an inoffensive stranger.
For in this weave of humanity, we would see
That I am you, and you are me.

- by Andrew Armstrong



responses always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com

Minister Search Team Wrap Up

In case you missed the Board announcement above,

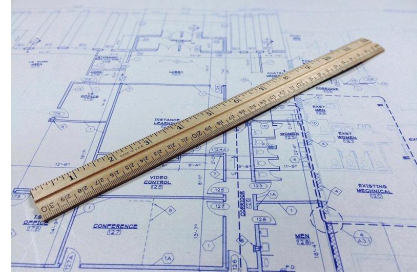
the Minister Search Team has wrapped up it's work by recommending Rev. Carie Johnsen to be our next minister. In total, over two months, we considered eight candidates and interviewed six. Our team is very happy with the outcome. :)



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

Community Space Team

In its June meeting, the Board voted to approve moving forward with Torrey Architecture on an initial phase for designing a new Parish House. Architectural and engineering work will begin shortly that will result in a detailed proposal by September/October for the full project. That proposal will be submitted to the congregation for a vote. Torrey Architecture is a leading firm in houses of worship design in New England, having worked on over 30 churches and synagogues.



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

Brief Update from UUA's General Assembly: This past weekend, Eva Marx, Ellie Handleman, and Davalene Cooper were our Old Ship delegates to General Assembly, which was held as an online event. The revisions to Article 2 passed with a vote of 80% in favor. You may learn more about the vote and debate at [Article II Results: New Unitarian Universalist Association Statement of Values Passes after General Assembly Delegate Vote | UU World Magazine](#). The business resolution, "Embracing Transgender, Nonbinary, Intersex and Gender Diverse People is a Fundamental Expression of UU Religious Values" also passed by a majority vote. Three Actions of Immediate Witness passed: (1) World on Fire: Humanitarian Work and Climate Change, (2) Centering Love Amidst the Ongoing Impact of COVID-19, and (3) Solidarity with Palestinians. Additionally, there was one Responsive Resolution that was passed--UUA GA Support for October 7 Hostages. And finally, you are invited to watch the Sunday morning worship service at [GA 2024 Sunday Service \(youtube.com\)](#).

Life Learning Offerings

Ongoing groups and gatherings

Our Life Learning Committee is preparing a schedule of classes and groups for 2024-2025.

Watch future newsletters for updates.

Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, July 2nd at 7:00 p.m** We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor as well as on Zoom. Email [Eric Cornetta](mailto:Eric.Cornetta) with any questions about Ceilidh. The zoom link is:

<https://zoom.us/j/92888235659>



The Gathering

During the summer months, The Gathering will meet **every Wednesday at 1:00p.m.** in 14 Main Street Parlor or member's homes. Hopefully outdoors! All women are welcome! For info contact [Diane Elliott](mailto:Diane.Elliott) or [Carol Valentine](mailto:Carol.Valentine).

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, June 27th

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](mailto: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](mailto:Lisa.Sawyer).

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning of each month at **8:30 a.m.** in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. – but taking a break in June, July and August. Will resume meeting on September 22nd. Contact [Ralph Brown](mailto:Ralph.Brown) or [Rich Elliott](mailto:Rich.Elliott) for information and a Zoom, link.

Fellowship Hour & Snacks

Fellowship Hour will be held outside the Meeting House (weather permitting). People are asked to bring some type of finger or toothpick food that can be placed on a napkin. We don't have volunteers to hand wash dishes and are going to keep things simple. Please leave your food item on the table outside the Meeting House ready to go. Food can be left in it's box or served on a paper plate. Thanks everyone.



Children's Religious Education

Sunday School classes have ended for the church year. All ages are welcome to attend and participate in our Sunday Services. Please reach out to [Maureen Butler](mailto:Maureen.Butler) with any questions 617-877-5204



Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)



Special Summer Service from the Social Justice Council on July 14

— Instead of a more traditional summer service, the SJC will be showing the documentary film, *Cooked: Survival by Zip Code*. "In the summer of 1995, Chicago experienced an unthinkable disaster, when extremely high humidity and a layer of heat-retaining pollution drove the heat index up to more than 126 degrees. *Cooked: Survival by Zip Code* tells the story of this tragic heatwave, the most traumatic in U.S. history, in which 739 citizens died over the course of just a single week, most of them poor, elderly, and African American." We will be showing the film at 14 Main, and due to the distribution rights, we cannot show the film on Zoom, so there will not be a Zoom link for this specific service. We will be providing food and beverages for our audience. The movie is about 80 minutes in length. There will be time to discuss the film for those who wish to stay a bit longer to do so. We hope to see you on July 14 for this important part of our social justice work!

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.

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group— We will begin again on September 15 at 7 p.m. on Zoom. Here are the books for our first three months of the church year.

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.

All are welcomed to join us.

Appreciation for Donations from Old Ship Members and Friends to the Pink Haven Coalition — We recently sent a check for \$834.06 to Pink Haven Coalition to support their work assisting trans individuals and families. We do not have special/outreach plates during the summer months, but they will resume 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](#) 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.

Update on SOLA and Shabana Basij-Rasikh — As you may recall, we have supported SOLA and welcomed Shabana as a speaker at Old Ship. Recently, she was selected as part of a group that Melinda French Gates has named to receive a \$20 million grant that this group can distribute as they wish. Congratulations to Shabana and the important work she is doing to educate girls from Afghanistan. As you may know, her school is located in Rwanda at the present time. To learn more about SOLA, go to [SOLA \(sola-afghanistan.org\)](http://SOLA(sola-afghanistan.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.



On Sunday, June 9th, the Pastoral Care Committee hosted a Strawberry Celebration to give Reverend Edmund a cheerful send-off before his final sermon on June 16th. Rain kept the party indoors at 14 Main, where the congregation enjoyed strawberry shortcake with whipped cream before a sing-along led by Edmund on concertina and banjo, and Eric Cornetta on guitar. We appreciate Edmund's commitment to being fully and frequently present (despite a rigorous commute) and his unfailingly calm graciousness. Characteristically, he has volunteered to



preach one more time for our Sunday service on July 7th. Then he goes on to his new appointment at the UU Church of Marblehead with our affection and best wishes.



Coming of Age Program

The Coming of Age program at Old Ship Church offers our 9th and 10th graders an engaging and structured atmosphere in which to explore significant issues at this transitional stage of life. It provides a modern Rite of Passage experience that welcomes and affirms youth as they embark on their journey towards young adulthood. The youth are supported on this journey by the mentors and the class's volunteer facilitators.



This year we had the gift of facilitating three amazing youth participate in this program, culminating in a worship service on June 16th which they designed themselves. In addition to spending the year delving into their personal beliefs, Jake Doyle, Josiah Fitz-Marquez and Elie Gibson also spent a good amount of time learning about philanthropy. Part of this program includes the youth researching and directing the donation of the Old Ship Saniter Funds. This year they decided to split the funds equally between the [Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry](#), [Wellspring](#) and [Panethnic Pourovers](#)



If you did not get a chance to attend, take a moment to listen to just some of the music selected for this service.

When I Grow Up by First Aide Kit
One Love by Bob Marley
Sons and Daughters by the Decembrists

"Love, like a carefully loaded ship, crosses the gulf between the generations.

Therefore, we do not neglect the ceremonies of our passage.."-Antoine de Saint-Exupery

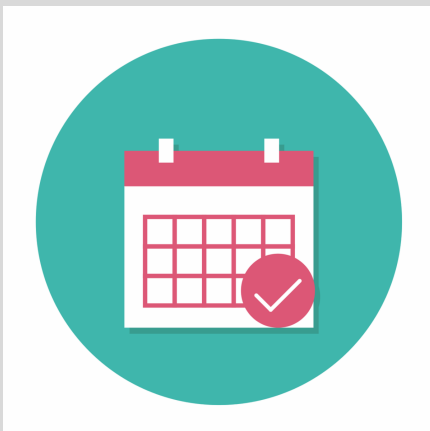




Mark your calendars for August 25th

for a special summer service of joy and musical celebration followed by a potluck lunch.

Please come join in and lift your voices in song to traditional bluegrass and country classics that have been staples in churches of many denominations for decades. We will be welcoming a special guest, the WSU Bluegrass band, to play and lead our singing during our service. They will continue during an after service pot luck picnic lunch outside the meeting house. Watch for more details in next month's newsletter.



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

- **Finance Committee Meeting** - Thursday, June 27, 10:00 a.m. 14 Main St Parlor
- **Board of Trustees Meeting** - Thursday, July 11, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor;
[Click here for the Zoom Link](#) Agenda will be sent closer to the meeting.

Summer (July & August) Office Hours:

Tuesdays & Thursdays 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Office is Closed on:

Thursday, July 4th

Thursday, July 11



Lisa will be out of the office on
Thursday, June 27 & Friday, June 28th.

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!**



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

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