



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
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August 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for September newsletter: Monday, August 19, 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, August 4, 2024

Judi Flaherty

**Talking about the special population
she works with.**

Judi will share thoughts about how our
lives are woven together in community and
in the world.



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

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

August 4 Judi Flaherty talks about the special population she works with.
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

We look forward to sharing with you all summer long.

The Summer Schedule is also available on the [website](#).

A Faith Journey...

This past month has been a time of bringing to close multiple chaplaincies, while also imagining my return to parish ministry. I have missed congregational life, justice ministries, and spiritual leadership. By this time next week, I will be organizing my office and greeting the good people of Old Ship Church. I am excited for our future. It is a privilege to be your one-year contract minister.



In the meantime, I am enjoying my bi-annual retreat to the prairie visiting Mom. During this trip, I took time to connect with my grandmothers. A three-hour drive, through the prairie to the grounds of the old Yankton State Hospital, brought me closer to my paternal great great grandmother, Elizabeth (Morris) Howell. She immigrated from Wales at the age of 15 with her brother. She died at the state hospital at the age of 82. The Mead building, where my grandmother lived, is now the Mead Museum. Standing in a former dorm room viewing the exhibit "Minds, Methods and Medicine," I am moved by her extraordinary courage and resilience. As I walked through two other exhibits — Homestead Hardships and Journeying Forward: Connecting Cultures— I was aware of the power and presence of the stories we tell, those we don't, and who is speaking. My time on the prairie was complete with an afternoon drive to Rutland where my maternal Norwegian ancestors homesteaded in Dakota Territory, land of the O'ceti Sakowin (Sioux) people.

I bring to my ministry curiosity and wonder about the lives of people who have gone before us. In connecting to the stories of our ancestors, we make sense of our days, sort through the complexity of the world we have inherited and grasp our responsibility to the future. I am looking forward to the opportunity to join together with all of you to unpack where you've been, embrace who you are, and discern where you are going. May our journey be filled with storytelling. May we give voice to the things that matter most. May we be a blessing to each other.

I look forward to hearing the stories that matter most to you and to the community of Old Ship Church. Please reach out to me at RevCarie@oldshipchurch.org to set up an appointment or extend an invitation to attend a group or committee meeting.

In Faith,

Rev Carie

Board of Trustees August Update

The Board of Trustees met on July 11th for our monthly business meeting. Below are some items not noted elsewhere in the newsletter.



The Treasurer's Report: Treasurer Clayton Handleman related that the Finance Committee met and wished him to convey that an analysis of our stewardship campaign pledges has shown that the large majority of financial support is provided by approximately 30% of the congregation. The Finance Committee believes that steps should be taken to broaden church financial support. The Finance Committee also discussed the funding of an RE program given an anticipated budget shortfall. A greater conversation within the congregation should be considered sooner than later. Adjustment of budget due to shortfall in pledges requires a congregational meeting in the fall. Treasurer Handleman will try to provide alternative budgets at the next Board meeting. The Board will revisit the budget again this fall in collaboration with our new minister. A revised budget will be presented for congregation approval.

The Building Committee: Janice McPhillips, acting as committee liaison related the following on the Meeting House Critical Projects;

- Plaster Repair: Our sexton Mark Curran will obtain a written estimate of the job and the Board will vote to approve.
- Sound and Visual System: The Board voted to approve Old Ship contributing \$16,000 toward the new audio & visual system in the Meeting House. This money will be used in combination with monies provided by other sources (Grants from the Reynolds Trust, Greenbush Trust, Roy Harris & Eileen McIntyre and Friends of the Meeting House.)
- Water Line Replacement: The Board voted to approve Ron Pollara applying to the Hingham Preservation Committee for funding to replace the water line that supplies water to the Meeting House. This water is used for our heating and sprinkler systems. The water line that supplies the Fire Sprinkler System was identified as likely to result in a catastrophic failure. The replacement could be considered jointly with the cemetery.

Website Project: As our current website was created over a decade ago, we have contracted KDS Designs to create a whole new website for us. After a hiatus this spring, the project is again moving forward with Janice McPhillips as our project coordinator.

Fall Board Retreat: In September, members of the Board will again attend the Fall Board Retreat being offered through the New England Regional (NER) Team of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA). Last year, the Board enjoyed the NER sponsored retreat as part of our commitment to to utilize the offering of the UUA and participate more actively in our larger UU community.

Trish McAleer, President

On behalf of the Old Ship Board of Trustees
Janice McPhillips; Vice President, Clayton Handleman; Treasurer, Elaine
Cuskor; Clerk, Karen Churchill; Trustee-at-large, Dennis Hogan; Trustee-at-
large, Cory Fitz-Marquez; Trustee-at-large

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

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

WISDOM OF THE POETS

ANY MORNING

Just lying on the couch and being happy.
Only humming a little, the quiet sound in the head.
Trouble is busy elsewhere at the moment, it has
so much to do in the world.



People who might judge are mostly asleep; they can't
monitor you all the time, and sometimes they forget.
When dawn flows over the hedge you can
get up and act busy.

Little corners like this, pieces of Heaven
left lying around, can be picked up and saved.
People won't even see that you have them,
they are so light and easy to hide.

Later in the day you can act like the others.
You can shake your head. You can frown.

- William Stafford (1914-1993)

responses always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.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, August 6th 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@lifelonglearning.org) 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. All women are welcome! For info contact [Diane Elliott](mailto:Diane.Elliott@lifelonglearning.org) or [Carol Valentine](mailto:Carol.Valentine@lifelonglearning.org).

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, August 8th

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

Second and fourth Thursday afternoons

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

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@lifelonglearning.org).

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@lifelonglearning.org) or [Rich Elliott](mailto:Rich.Elliott@lifelonglearning.org) 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.



Friends of The Old Ship Church Pew Cleaning Team

It has been years since the days of cleaning the

pews - gently removing graffiti and treating the wood - led by Marty Saunders. The cleaning has started and will continue until completed. The several team efforts will be held on Tuesday mornings starting at 9:00 am. Please join members of the Friends - just show up! Thank you!



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** with any questions 617-877-5204



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. There are opportunities to be involved in several different ways to get out the vote. We will continue to let the congregation know about these activities through our weekly and monthly newsletter. Here is what we know at this time.



In person canvassing in swing states for anyone who might like to travel:

- Philadelphia Sept. 6-8 (Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt will be attending)
- Pittsburgh Sept. 20-22
- Athens (GA) Sept. 28 – this action is led by a partner organization
- Dallas/Fort Worth Oct. 4-6 (Rev. Dr. Sofia Betancourt will attend)
- Phoenix Oct. 25-27
- North Carolina – late October – this action is also led by a partner organization
- Wisconsin/Florida/Colorado – Nov. 1-5

In addition, there will be weekly phone banks on Tuesday evenings, 7-9 pm, starting Aug. 27 through Oct. 29.

Finally, if you would like to write "get out the vote" targeted postcards, they can be written starting now, and then they are held to be mailed until Sept. 6 if going to Virginia, Sept. 15 if going to Georgia, or Oct. 1 if going elsewhere.

To sign up to do any of these things, please contact Ellie Handleman, who is organizing our UU the Vote efforts at Old Ship. Send her an email at 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.

Hingham Food Pantry — We have been told that the food pantry is very low on a few items. If you are able, please donate the following: Crackers, Cookies, Pasta Sauce, and Cracker Sandwiches. Please leave your donations in the bins located in the vestibule of the Meeting House or at 14 Main Street. Donations also can be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop.

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, 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.

Mark your calendars for August 25th at 10:30am as we welcome the WSU Bluegrass band. During our service they will lead us in singing traditional bluegrass and gospel tunes that, for generations, have been “taking people to church”. After the service refreshments will be served with finger food and light lunch and more music.



The WSU Bluegrass band is a group that gathers weekly, year round, to sing and play music together. You can learn more about them on their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/WSUBluegrassBand>

Contact [Clayton Handleman](#) if you have questions or are available to help.

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, August 8, 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.



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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