



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
14 Main Street Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679
office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

September 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for October newsletter: Tuesday, September 17, 2024

Worship: 10:30 a.m.
Multi-Platform:
Join us in-person in the Meeting House
or on Zoom

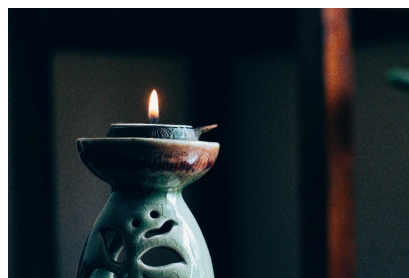
Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

[Click here to join Sunday Worship!](#)

Sunday, September 1

Meditation Service with Karen Churchill

Join us in a service of quiet and gratitude as we transition from Summer Services to the beginning of our new year with Rev Carie. There will be plenty of meditation and moments of silence. Come to relax and restore and give gratitude for the wonderful summer we have had together.



September 8th

In-Gathering Sunday with Rev. Carie Johnsen

We will join countless Unitarian Universalists across the nation in the Water Communion Ceremony. Also known as In-gathering Sunday - an intentional moment to connect and reconnect with each other and to that which matters most. In the gathering up our individual lives through a collective experience, we are reminded we need one another.

As you gather up a vial of water to bring to this service, I invite you to reflect upon four things.

1. Where does your water come from? What is the geographic location?
2. What is the source of your water? Is it your home tap water, a river, lake,

etc?

3. What was spiritual significance? Why does that place, source or moment matters deeply to you? What makes it meaningful?

4. What is your hope for First Parish in the coming year?

September 15th

Spirituality: A Practice of Connection with Rev. Carie Johnsen

This service we will reflect upon spirituality as the practice of living with meaning and purpose through relationships and connection to self, others –the stranger, the friend – all of creation, and something beyond.

September 22nd

Infinite Possibilities with Rev. Dr. Albert L. Boyce

We do not helplessly exist. We decide, each moment, what our attitude and existence will be. So why not venture all that we are, and believe in all we can be?

Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Albert (Al) L. Boyce

Al began ministry as an evangelical minister. After attending Harvard Divinity School, he became a Unitarian Universalist parish Minister in 1988. Al also holds a master's degree in psychology/counseling and PhD in psychology. Al has served parishes in Chester Depot, Vermont, founded a Unitarian Universalist church in downtown Miami, Florida and served the Plainfield, New Jersey Unitarian Universalist congregation. Al served the Turner, Maine First Universalist Church as half-time minister until COVID. Today, he is a monthly contract minister at Midcoast UU Fellowship in Damariscotta Maine for the 24-25 church year. Al is lead chaplain for Volunteers of America Northern New England while speaking regularly at Unitarian Universalist congregations. He lives in Dexter, Maine with husband, Andrew, and standard poodles, Luke and Louie. Al just received recognition at the "24" UU Ministers Association Meeting for 50 years of ordained ministry.

September 29th

Shared Ministries, Celebrations, and Covenant with Rev. Carie Johnsen

With Love at the center, we confer the status of Minister Emeritus on Rev. Ken Read-Brown and affirm the future of shared ministry.



EVERYDAY ORDINARY THEOLOGIES

A ministerial message from Rev. Carie Johnsen

*A beginning is ultimately an invitation to open toward the gifts
and growth that are stored up for us.*

~ John O'Donohue

Let September be an invitation to CONNECTION * RECONNECTION * DISCONNECTION. A month of opportunities to explore the ways we connect with ourselves, each other, the world around us, and something beyond us.

On September 8th, we will join countless Unitarian Universalists across the nation in the Water Communion Ceremony. Also known as In-gathering Sunday - an intentional moment to connect and reconnect with each other and to that which matters most. In the gathering up our individual lives through a collective experience, symbolized by water, we are reminded we need one another.

As you gather up a vial of water to bring to this service, I invite you to ponder four things. First, Where does your water come from? What is the geographic location? Second, What is the source of your water? Is it your home tap water, a river, lake? Third, the spiritual significance of this moment, Why that moment matters to you? What makes it meaningful? How is it spiritually grounding for you and your loved ones? And finally, What is your hope for First Parish in the coming year?

In the service, we will write a note about the four items (location, source, significance, hopes) then offer our water in silence. I will gather up yours notes and craft liturgy (chalice lightings, prayers, blessings, closing words) to be used throughout the month. Your individual experiences and hopes will bless our sacred gatherings reminding us of our commitment to the wellbeing of the congregation.

Our month will close with our sacred waters being used to bless Rev. Ken Read-Brown at the Minister Emeritus celebration on September 29th. In this moment of reconnection, we will celebrate his new relationship with Old Ship. May we be reminded Minister Emeritus is a ceremonial title with no responsibilities or expectations. As such, we also celebrate his new chapter and covenant to honor his new commitments, new adventures, and expanded time with family.

This month is also a time of beginnings. An invitation to nurturing and cultivating connection in our shared ministry. As your contract ministry, I hold many responsibilities and accompanying expectations. The least of which includes worship leadership, pastoral care, embodied social justice practices, and ministerial presence with church governance. No doubt it will be a busy year. I will be with you in humble imperfection while striving for excellence in ministry. We will have moments where we are connected with like minds and celebrating welcomed outcomes. And, no doubt we will also have moments of being disappointed with choices and living in the tension of different ideologies. In all of these moments may we remember the month of September and the grounding philosophy of water communion. We are stronger together. We are committed to the wellbeing of First Parish.

May we be reminded of Unitarian Universalist values to keep Love at the

center.

May we remember to play together, laugh often, express gratitude, share our grief, explore disappointment, and stay curious.

May our hearts and minds stay open to new and novel ideas.

And, may we hold space to celebrate and bless each other along the way.

In Faith, Carie

PRACTICALLY SPEAKING - HOW TO CONNECT WITH REV. CARIE

I am available by phone and email for church business and pastoral calls.

I check my email several times a day. If you don't hear from me in a couple days, feel free to give me a nudge. I **prefer not to use text** for church business. All too often I lose sight of text messages as they are not easily flagged for follow-up. Feel free to use text for last minute logistics, urgent needs, and emergencies.

Feel free to stop by during office hours on Thursday afternoon or set up an appointment. I will be in Hingham 2-3 days per week. You can anticipate that I will be in the Hingham on Thursdays, and Sundays when I am leading service. My third Hingham day will be flexible to the needs of the community and my personal life.

My regular day off will be Monday. I do not respond to communications or schedule meetings on my day off unless it is an emergency.

Friday is my writing day. I do not schedule meetings though I'm happy to pause for communications.

Here's the two things about my cell phone. First, I do not have my professional email connected to my phone. This is how I breathe life, take space, and seek balance in ministry. Second, I use Verizon. As many of you already know, I have inconsistent cell phone connectivity in the office and in downtown Hingham. Wifi helps but is not dependable. Please keep this in mind if you are trying to reach me for an emergency. If I have not responded promptly to a pastoral emergency, please send an email and call the church office.

RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org

Office phone 781-749-1679

Cell Phone 508-221-5295

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

Reverend Emeritus Ceremony for Ken Read-Brown Sept. 29th

Mark your Calendars! Sunday, September 29th, will feature the official recognition of the Reverend Ken Read-Brown as our Minister Emeritus. Reverend Carie Johnsen will be conducting the service which will be followed immediately by a reception at the Ames Chapel.



Board of Trustees September Update

The Board of Trustees met on August 8th for our monthly business meeting. Below are items discussed but not noted elsewhere in the newsletter.



Meeting House security: In light of recent vandalism at other progressive religious communities in Massachusetts, Elaine Cusker contacted the Hingham Police Chief and Tom Willson from the Facilities' Committee regarding safety for Meeting House. The HPD will increase patrols of our property and welcomed any future conversation about security concerns. Tom Willson consulted with our current security company. Though security cameras have been considered they have been determined presently as not the best investment for our security. The Board will share more detailed information regarding improvements and costs when it is ready.

Building Committee: Janice McPhillips reported on recent activity on the Building Committee. Plaster Repair: Tom Willson has found a plasterer that can do the work. Sound System: The system will not be able to be installed in time for the Ken Burns lecture so a temporary alternative will be installed. HVAC: An anonymous donor has provided funds for the investigation of an environmentally sound heating system for new building and meetinghouse. Pew Cleaning: This is being undertaken by a volunteer group every Tuesday. Anyone is welcome to join. Inspections: The season is coming up for different agents to inspect the furnace, fire detection and sprinkler system, as well as occupancy requirements of the town. A front door issue will be addressed by the sexton. Water Line Replacement: The current supply system was installed in 1800's and upgraded in 1920's. Happily, it is now known that the issue is not urgent and that Tom Willson has found someone able to work on it.

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Clayton Handleman reported the following; Breeze Account Pledge Billing: Some congregants were getting charged multiple times in Breeze. This is being addressed and corrected in the church office. Treasurer Change Over: There are no written procedures for changing over to a new Treasurer or new officers which actually includes notification to the Secretary of State of the Commonwealth. Clayton is working on this. The process involves the Clerk. Clayton will follow-up as needed. Bank Accounts: Clayton is working on consolidating the Old Ship bank accounts (now in four separate banks) and also looking at how to insure all cash is invested for some return. Budget recap: Clayton explained some of the categories of the budget for Rev. Carie's benefit. A discussion followed about our Religious Education program and possibly using surpluses to close a 50K shortfall in the pledges. Board President Trish McAleer will call for Zoom meeting in early September for congregation members to talk about the Religious Education Program. This will be followed by a larger fall congregational meeting on the budget and the RE ambitions this fall.

Website project update; Janice McPhillips advised that there is a project team composed of Janice, David Murphy, Nina Wellford, Ralph Brown, and Paul Stone. The team has been working on various tasks and providing their input. Our website consultant is working on a mock-up of the website. This

should be ready before the current site requires renewal. When the site is available for viewing in a test mode, many will be invited to review it.

Ministerial Start Up Program: With the intention of providing the best support for our current minister, The Board and Rev Carie have agreed to participate in the UUA facilitated Ministerial Start Up Program. The program takes part in two stages with the first gathering set for the evening of Sept. 19. A second follow up session will be scheduled for this winter. It was noted that this program will take the place of the NER Board retreats this fall.

Missing Member Outreach: There was a brief discussion regarding contacting church members unseen over the past year and encouraging their return to our community. A meeting on this has been scheduled for August 29 at 11:00 am at 14 Main.

Display of Flags: Following inquiry from a member, Elaine Cusker requested clarification of policy regarding when Old Ship displayed the Pride and Black Lives Matter flags/banners. It was agreed that these flags should be displayed continuously and regardless of an uptick in threats. If Meeting House tour guides exchange the Pride Flag for the Open Flag on Tour Days, they will be asked to put the Pride flag back at the end of the shift.

The Board welcomes questions and comments from our members and friends. Please contact us at President@oldshipchurch.org. We look forward to a great church year together with you!

Your Board of Trustees

Trish McAleer, President

Janice McPhillips, Vice President

Clayton Handleman, Treasurer

Elaine Cusker, Clerk

Karen Churchill, Dennis Hogan, Corey Fitz-Marquez; Trustees-at-large.

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](#) 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](#) 508-221-5295

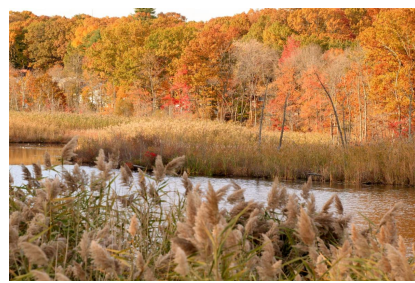
WISDOM OF THE POETS

Late September

Look, how the light is beginning to dim,
tarnished like old silver rubbed thin,
a note from a lover read over and over,
folded too many times. The flowers are
trying to outdo themselves: goldenrod,
purple asters, the dusty mauve of autumn
sedum; colors from the parlors
of half-remembered
aunts. There's so much to love
in this undoing: the sun losing its nickel
of light every night, clouds turning
pumpkin, wild grape, pewter -
There's a need for something aged
and smoky: Lapsang Souchong,
single malt Scotch. Even as it
frays and unravels - the leaves
letting go, the birds leaving - this late
radiance plays us like a cello,
a last quartet, a kiss at the station,
all of us waving good-bye, good-bye.

by Barbara Crooker

Responses most welcome (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)



SUNDAY FLOWERS DONORS NEEDED

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? September 15 & 22 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](mailto:Sharon.Prehn@verizon.net) (prehn@verizon.net or 781-925-0101).



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, September 3rd 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

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, September 12th

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.** in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. Our next gathering will meet on Sunday, September 22nd. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and a Zoom, link.

Crossing Time Autumn Equinox Poetry Circle - Autumn officially begins this year at 8:44 AM EDT on Sunday, September 22nd. We will meet in the Parlor after coffee hour that Sunday. You are invited to bring a favorite fall poem, or one that has been a source of inspiration to you. Come with or without a poem. Questions? elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com

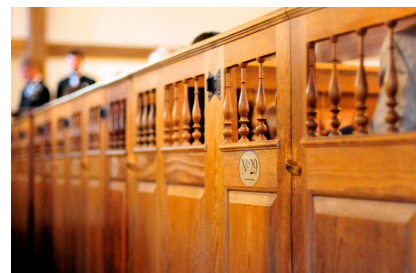
Fellowship Hour & Snacks

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)

Next Meeting is Saturday, September 14, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome! Here is the link to the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81551736696?pwd=itZe22cvUYfzX8NGq5b5nra6owQyJx.1>



Want to Help Provide Lunches for the Anderson Veterans Home in Hingham in October? We at Old Ship are part of a community wide interfaith effort to provide six lunches twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to the Anderson Veterans Home at 111 Fort Hill Street in Hingham. Lunch consists of a deli-meat or PB&J sandwich, chips, fresh fruit, cookie, and water or juice. Old Ship is responsible for the month of October; we are looking for volunteers to take one or more of the October dates and provide the six lunches. Dates are October 1, 4, 8, 11, 15, 18, 22, 25, and 29. You could do this individually, as a family, or as a group of friends. The lunches are left in a cooler outside the back door of the home by noon on each date. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact [Davalene Cooper](#).

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop In Book Group meeting on September 15 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom — All are welcome to join us as we discuss *All We Can Save: Truth, Courage, and Solutions for the Climate Crisis*, edited by Ayana Elizabeth Johnson and Katharine K. Wilkinson. The editors gathered together the voices of 60 women who are using their voices to create collective change around the climate crisis. As one commentator states, "these are the ideas, solutions, inspirations, and visionaries we've been waiting for." Davalene Cooper will facilitate our discussion. Here is the Zoom link for the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89029516109?pwd=wrAThaqJbULQPYYwwHibSckC0SNH2q.1>

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 for this fall's election. There are weekly phone banks on Tuesday evenings, 7-9 p.m., starting Aug. 27 through Oct. 29. 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.

General Assembly 2024 Action of Immediate Witness on Solidarity with Palestinians — This Action of Immediate Witness (AIW) calls for teach-ins on

the Middle East and Pathways to Peace. You may read the AIW at this link: [\[AMENDED\] Proposed AIW - Solidarity with Palestinians - General Assembly 2024 / GA Business - Unitarian Universalist Association Forums \(uua.org\)](#). The SJC, along with the Lifelong Learning Committee, supports educating our congregation about this important issue. Accordingly, we will be hosting a speaker series for congregants on five successive Sundays, Sept 29-Oct 27, from 3-5 PM. Following this educational series, we will consider what additional actions we at Old Ship might take regarding the liberation of Palestine and an end to apartheid. For more details about this series and to RSVP to attend, see the separate article about the series in this newsletter.

Food Donations for the Hingham Food Pantry— We collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry (HFP) each week in the Meeting House and at 14 Main; there is a basket in the vestibule/hallway for donations. At this time, the following items are especially needed for the pantry: cookies, crackers, mac & cheese, red pasta sauce, and regular and decaf ground coffee. Donations may also be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop (large bin at the front of the store). If you prefer to donate money to the HFP, send a check to the HFP at 685 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043. Also, please note that the HFP will be our special place recipient in October.

Summer Jazz Concert at the UU Urban Ministry — The Makanda Project will have one more jazz concert this summer at the Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam Street in Boston. Everyone is invited to attend this free concert under the summer sky in the heart of Roxbury on 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. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.

Teach-Ins on the Middle East and Pathways to Peace

The Unitarian Universalists Association, recognizing that our UU faith draws on the moral imperative of radical love, and that all people are entitled to justice, liberty, and equality, has called for teach-ins about the Middle East.

Accordingly, we will be hosting a speaker series for congregants on **5 successive Sundays, Sept 29-Oct 27, 3-5 PM**, as follows:

Sept 29, Oct 6, Oct 13 – **Jeff Klein**, Board Member of Massachusetts Peace Action Committee, taught "The US in the Middle East" at UMass Boston (10+yrs), speaks on understanding the conflict in the context of broader history.

Oct 20, Oct 27 – Massachusetts peace activists of various backgrounds speak on their work and visions for the future.

All will be held at the Meeting House, a sacred space for spiritual processing. Please RSVP [good for all dates] [here](#).





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

- **Membership Outreach Meeting** - Thursday, August 29th 11:00 a.m.
Zoom/Parlor
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, September 5, 7:00 p.m.
Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) The agenda will be sent out next week
- **Deacons Meeting** - Thursday, September 26, 7:00 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
Labor Day
Weekend

from your friends at
Old Ship Church!

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

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