



First Parish, Hingham  
**Old Ship Church**

Unitarian Universalist  
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## August 2023 Newsletter

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*Deadline for September newsletter: Monday, August 21, 2023*

### Summer Worship

Click here to join worship on Zoom @ 10:30 a.m. on  
Sundays!

#### Summer Services in August

On July 2nd, 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 co-chair [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.

Aug. 6th: Gail Moran Slater My Poetry  
Aug. 13th: Dr. Tom Zarle How Woodcarving Changed My Life  
Aug. 20th: Nina Price A Different Perspective  
Aug. 27th Pat Bianco Old Ship at 100 and 200 Years of Age

We look forward to sharing with you all summer long.

#### Our Board of Trustees Update

The Board of Trustees (BOT) continues to work this summer for the upcoming church year. On July 23rd, the BOT facilitated a second discussion on the Interim



Minister's Final Report. As in our first report discussion, attendees expressed varying feelings and thoughts on the reports topics. While some were critical of the report, others felt it was accurate. The BOT continues to seek feedback from our congregants in determining what next steps should be taken in relation to the report recommendations. Also, please look for a survey asking what you believe should be "Old Ship Priorities" to land in your in-box soon.

The BOT is delighted to officially welcome Rev. Edmund Robinson to Old Ship as he begins his ministry with us effective August 1. We expect Rev. Edmund will be busy this month getting up to speed on all things Old Ship including attending the BOT meeting on August 3. Please be sure to read the introductory message from Rev. Edmund in this newsletter.

Also in August, many BOT members will be attending Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) sponsored training tailored specifically for Lay Congregational Leadership. We look forward to tapping into the collective wisdom of the UUA (of which we are a member) much more going forward.

Lastly, we are delighted that so many of you have attended the lay led Sunday services this summer in the Meeting House. A big shout out to our members who have volunteered to lead as well as our Worship and Music co-chairs Karen Churchill and Bonnie Baynes for organizing. Well done everyone! Now please enjoy the rest of the summer.

Trish McAleer, President  
On behalf of the Board of Trustees

## **Greetings from our contract minister**

Hello, Hingham! Your leadership has paid me the honor of selecting me to serve as contract minister for this esteemed old church for a year, with the possibility of extending for longer times. I am very excited to meet you individually and collectively and work together to plan a future worthy of Old Ship's distinguished past.

You may be wondering what a contract minister does and how that differs from interim ministers or settled ministers. The settled minister is chosen after a year-long search process which can be very labor-intensive, but results in a call which is open-ended, which does not have a definite ending date when it is started. Classically, during the time of search for a settled minister, the congregation is guided by an interim minister; the interim year or years includes a process of discernment in which the congregation seeks a clearer picture of what it is now and what kind of settled minister will serve it best in the future. The most important feature of an interim minister agreement is that the interim has agreed in advance that she or he will not be a candidate for settled minister of that church during that round of selection and for several years thereafter.



The contract minister does not have that restriction. Contract ministers and governing boards are free to decide for themselves what tasks most need doing and in what priority. Obviously one important task is to keep the Sunday services going. Another is to try to reconstruct program elements damaged by the pandemic. And if there is conflict among the members, to address that as well. We will be talking in the near future as to what our priorities should be.

A bit about me: I am a South Carolinian by birth and before I entered the UU ministry I was a trial lawyer in Charleston SC. I have two adult children by a previous marriage and two grandsons. I got an M.Div. from Harvard Divinity School in 1999 and was ordained that same year. I have served churches as a settled minister in Wakefield, Belmont, and Chatham, MA and as interim in Staten Island, NY and First Church in Boston. Both of the churches I served as interim went on to have successful searches.

From my limited knowledge of Old Ship's history, it appears that I will be your second banjo-playing minister. I've had some fine musical moments with Ken Read-Brown when I was last in the Ballou-Channing district. I love most kinds of music but the music I tend to make or play falls into the category of traditional folk. My wife Jacqueline Schwab, on the other hand, is a professional pianist and plays many styles.

I will set up regular office hours, but I want you all to feel free to contact me for any reason. I can do Zoom, phone, text, FaceTime, and email. And speaking of which, the email "handle" I chose when I came to school up here in Boston a quarter-century ago still serves me: [edmund@gmail.com](mailto:edmund@gmail.com). Yes, that's right, it has two "u"s, as in "Unitarian Universalist." Though it looks like a typo, it's actually a pun. Phone and text number: 617-710-0508.

Drop me a line! Here's a few of the things I'd like to know from you:

1. How long you have been at Old Ship?
2. How do you feel about the direction of the church?
3. What do you like best and least about it?
4. What sermon topics would you be interested in hearing?
5. What activities would you like to see started, either new or in post-Covid revival?
6. What community organizations might be good partners for Old Ship outreach?
7. What's the most fun you ever had at Old Ship?

Hoping to hear from and meet you soon!

Blessings,  
Rev. Edmund

## Pastoral Care Needs During the Summer

The Pastoral Care Leadership Team will not be meeting again until September 19th. 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](#)

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

[Claire Petrie](#)

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

[Patience Gardner](#) 781-974-5078

[Louise Smith](#) 781-690-1163

[Edmund Robinson](#) 781-749-1679

## Among Us

We share the sad news that Mary Sofis has passed away today, August 1. Tentatively, a service in celebration of Mary's life is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16th. Once the arrangements have not been finalized, they will be shared.



## Walking Club:

Enjoy the outdoors and get to know your fellow churchgoers! Weather-permitting, we'll spend about 45 minutes to an hour walking at various paces through Hingham-area parks. Water bottles, sunscreen, and smiles are recommended but not required. Contact Heather Nolasco to be added to our email list or to RSVP.



Sunday, August 13th 9 AM: Great Esker Park (Meet at Puritan Road Entrance)

Sunday, August 27th 9 AM: More-Brewer Park

## Game Night:

Bring a game, a snack, or just yourself to an Old Ship community game night! We can have some fun and get to know each other better. Contact Heather Nolasco to be added to our email list or to RSVP.



Friday, August 4th 5 PM-8 PM 14 Main St

Friday, August 18th 5 PM-8 PM 14 Main St

## Old Ship Church Retreat Day:

Join us for a summer Church Retreat Day on Saturday, August 26th! Abby and Mary

Diamond-Kissiday are hosting an afternoon of fellowship, fun, and spiritual connection at their home in Hull, 10 AM-4 PM.



The schedule of events is as follows:

Arrival: 10 AM-10:30 AM

Chalice Lighting: 10:30 AM

Free Time for games, snacks, beach fun, and conversation: 10:30-1 PM

Potluck Lunch: 1 PM-2 PM

Brief Service: 2-2:30 PM

Dessert/Coffee/Tea/Departure: 2:30-4 PM

Bring a dish to share, your beach stuff, and any tabletop games you'd like to play. Weather permitting, we'll spend most of the day outside. Abby and Mary have indoor cats, so be advised if there is an allergy.

*A note about parking: Carpooling is strongly recommended, and parking spots right next to the Diamond-Kissiday house will be prioritized for those with mobility concerns. Additional parking is available between X and Y street, a short walk away.*

Attendees MUST RSVP by Friday, August 18th at 5 PM. RSVP to [Abby](#) for precise event address, directions, or any questions

### **A note from Elizabeth Torrey:**

At the end of the summer poetry service I invited people to remain seated for a Postlude. A number of people have requested the name of the piece and how to listen to it. The composer's name is Dan Forrest. It is called "Peace, Shalom" and it is sung by the choir of a Lutheran Church in Lincoln, Nebraska. It's a little over five minutes long.



Here is a link to Peace, Shalom: <https://youtu.be/PlzXY5w6Kfk>

### **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



### **Life Learning Offerings**

#### **Ongoing groups and gatherings**

Our Life Learning Committee is preparing a schedule of classes and groups for 2022-2023.

Watch future newsletters for updates.

**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. Currently we are reading Zen Mind, Beginner's Mind by Shunryu Suzuki. For questions and Zoom link, email [Lisa Sawyer](mailto:Lisa.Sawyer).



**Men's Breakfast** — Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – but taking a break in July and August. Will resume meeting on September 10th. Contact [Ralph Brown](mailto:Ralph.Brown) or [Rich Elliott](mailto:Rich.Elliott) for information and, if we are still meeting on Zoom, for the link.

### **Sacred Texts Meditation Group**

**Next gatherings: Thursdays, August 10th and August 24th**

**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).

**Ceilidh!** – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, **August 1st**, at 7:00 p.m. We are currently planning to gather in the 14 Main St Parlor as well as on Zoom. Please email [Eric Cornetta](mailto:Eric.Cornetta) with any questions about Ceilidh.

The zoom link is <https://zoom.us/j/92888235659?pwd=M3NEcVNibjdqM1RvUHhTUm9aN21Edz09>

### **Fiber Funship**

During the summer months, Fiber Funship will meet Wednesdays at 1:00 p.m. at members' homes. Hopefully outdoors! No crafting is required. For info contact [Diane Elliot](mailto:Diane.Elliott) or [Carol Valentine](mailto:Carol.Valentine).

### **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 is best. 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.

## **Serving Others**

**News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)**

**Our Next Meeting is Sunday, August 6, 2023. We will be gathering in person for a potluck and to plan our work for the coming church year. Please contact Davalene Cooper at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) if**



**you would like to attend and be part of our planning process. All are welcome to join us in our work in creating a more just world!**

**Donations for the Hingham Food Pantry**— During the summer months, the need for food for those served by the Hingham Food Pantry continues. ***Donations may be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop (large bin at the front of the store).*** The food pantry only accepts non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food. Although all donations are appreciated, the following items are among the most needed at this time: Crackers, Canned Beef Stew, Instant Mashed or Scalloped Potatoes, Rice Side Dishes, Cookie Baking Mixes, 1 lb or 2 lb Granulated Sugars, Ketchup, Cheese or Peanut Butter Cracker Sandwiches, and Granola Bars. Checks to support the food pantry also are appreciated (for every \$1 donated, the food pantry can purchase about \$3 of food from the Greater Boston Food Bank). If you are interested in donating, please send a check to: Hingham Food Pantry 685 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043.



## 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** - Thursday, August 3rd 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) / [Click here for the agenda](#)
- **Deacon's Meeting** - Thursday, August 17, 7:00 p.m. Contact [Lisa](#) for links or information about these meetings.

## 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 the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2022 we were able to convert used cartridges into almost \$500 of office supplies! Drop off your cartridges at 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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