



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

Unitarian Universalist
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September 2023 Newsletter

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Deadline for October's newsletter: Tuesday, September 19, 2023

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

(masks are optional - and vaccination strongly urged)

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

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

Sunday, September 4
No Sunday Service

Sunday, September 10
Ingathering and Water Communion

Please bring samples of water collected over the summer from places you've visited. We will pour these into a common bowl. The sermon will be a reflection on water in this "kingdom by the sea."



Sunday, September 17
"The Blessings of Imperfection."

Some of us some of the time find ourselves striving to eliminate all flaws of character, cracks in the enamel, anything less than perfection. But there are many scales in which perfection is meaningless or unattainable.

Sunday, September 24
"Atonement and compensation"

The Jewish holiday of Yom Kippur reminds us that we are accountable in

many ways to our fellow humans for the actions we have taken.

The Minister's Musings

August in New England is a prelude to the most dramatic change of seasons which arrives in September. We celebrate by bringing a bit of water into the first church service after Labor Day. Our separate samples of water are poured into a common vessel symbolizing our lives together bound by this covenanted community.



I have spent this preparatory period planning the fall and meeting many of you. You have been very hospitable to me, and I feel welcomed here. My wife Jacqueline's music performance schedule happens to be rather full at the moment, but she hopes to get to Hingham to meet you at one of the September worship services.

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).

Message from the Board President

As summer winds down and fall approaches, the Board of Trustees (BOT) is looking forward to getting back together with the Old Ship community. But before we put away our flip flops, we want to again acknowledge the work of the Worship and Music Committee, led by Karen Churchill and Bonnie Baynes, who organized our summer services. And big kudos to those volunteers who gave talks or provided music each week. We are very fortunate to have both spiritual nourishment and fellowship throughout the summer!



The BOT is enjoying working with our new minister, Rev. Edmund Robinson, who joined us August 1. Rev. Edmund has been out and about meeting folks and preparing for the year ahead. We are delighted to have Rev Edmund aboard and look forward to having him lead us in the Water Communion Service on Sept. 10, followed by his welcome reception.

Additionally, this year the BOT is committed to improving our governance, organization and communication skills. So in addition to the monthly BOT meeting on Sept. 7th, the BOT will gather off site on Sept. 9 for a team building and planning retreat. Then on Sept. 16th, BOT members will attend a training for Lay Congregational Leadership presented by our regional Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) team. We look forward to meeting other local church leaders and tapping into the collective wisdom of the UUA.

Finally, if you haven't yet, please be sure to complete the Old Ship Priorities survey found at this link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/5YLXKJZ> This short

survey will ask what YOU think we should focus on this next year, what brought you to Old Ship and what keeps you coming. Your input is valuable to us and much appreciated.

Trish McAleer, President
president@oldshipchurch.org
On behalf of the Board of Trustees

SUNDAY FLORAL ARRANGERS NEEDED

Do you have an interest or talent for floral arrangement? If so, we need your help and can show you how it's done! The Sunday Flowers Committee is looking for additional people to assist in creating the floral arrangements for our Sunday services. Contact [Sharon Prehn](mailto:Sharon.Prehn@verizon.net) (781-925-0101, prehn@verizon.net) for more information.



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](#)
[Patience Gardner](#)
[Louise Smith](#)
[Edmund Robinson](#)

WISDOM OF THE POETS

A note from Elizabeth Torrey
(elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)

THE WILD GEESE by Wendell Berry

Horseback on Sunday morning,
harvest over, we taste persimmon
and wild grape, sharp sweet
of summer's end. In time's maze
over fall fields, we name names
that went west from here, names
that rest on graves. We open



a persimmon seed to find the tree
that stands in promise,
pale, in the seed's marrow.
Geese appear high over us,
pass, and the sky closes. Abandon,
as in love or sleep, holds
them to their way, clear,
in the ancient faith: what we need
is here. And we pray, not
for new earth or heaven, but to be
quiet in heart, and in eye
clear. What we need is here.

- Wendell Berry, Kentucky farmer, poet, novelist, environmentalist
born 1934

Responses always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com

Children and Youth Religious Education



It's exciting to be back at the start of a new church year together! Your religious education committee members are busy considering and developing plans for the year.

We will start religious education Sunday classes and any youth group activity that youth would like to participate in during the first week of October .

We are interested to hear from you ! If you are a family with children please reach out and let us know of your interest in participation , and we will be much better able to be there at the ready for you!

We will hold our Coming of Age Program this year for 8th and 9th graders. As we know, this is a pivotal program for everyone who participates. It's meaningful, fun, full of learning, self awareness stretching, and community building, contains a retreat, inter-generational mentoring and a lovely spring Coming Of Age Service for all. If you are an 8th or 9th grader , or the family member of one, please reach out with any questions and or to let us know you are interested in participating. We will hold an information session during September and want to be sure we invite all the key people. For Coming of Age Program info please reach out to [Janet Asnes](#).

Please know that families, youth and children are welcome to worship services, and all aspects of church life and our community at Old Ship.

During September, even before something "official" religious education wise begins, please come to church to enjoy the shared worship services, and fellowship hour and let us know, if you'd like, what you'd like to see unfold this year for you, and how you'd be most happy participating here.

Children of all ages (babies, toddlers and up) are welcome in our Sunday morning worship services. We have 2 larger pews set up with rugs, rocking chairs , toys etc. You may settle right in to one of those, or sit wherever you'd

like and where it works for you .

Please reach out to one of us directly or send a message to Lisa in our office, and she will be sure we are made aware of your outreach / question, etc.

Heather Nolasco
Janet Asnes
Maureen Butler
Diane Elliott

Welcoming Congregations

For the 2nd year, we've earned the "Five Practices of Welcome Renewal". To maintain our status as a Welcoming Congregation, we must renew each year. We do this so everyone knows we welcome and affirm all genders and orientations. We also show the community that we Stand on the Side of Love, especially when we take our message outside of church, which a small group of us have already done this summer on Nantasket Beach and on a bridge in Norwell; see below.



The Anti-Defamation League and GLAAD newest study ranks the worst states for anti-LGBTQ+ hate crimes. From June 2022 to April 2023, MA tied for 5th with TN. Others in the top 5 in order are CA, NY, AZ and FL.



Unfortunately, we have LGBTQ+ hate here on the South Shore.

- * Hull - large swastika was drawn in the sand at A St Beach. (Aug)
- * Scituate - mock Tombstone for Jamele Adams was buried at Museum Beach. (Jul)
- * Hanover - family received an unsigned letter stating they needed to take down their Pride flag and Black Lives Matter sign. Letter went on stating they should move out of state. (Jul)
- * Hingham - Weymouth man arrested after threatening to shoot Pride flag at Derby Shops and burn it if not taken down. (Apr '23)

On Aug 5th a few of us joined approximately 45 others holding signs, flags, etc on both sides of the River St Bridge over Rt 3. As the non-stop traffic progressed towards the Cape, we received positive feedback from well over

200, while only negative from less than 20.

Sept 9th 8:00 am -10:00 pm, we're holding signs and flags again. Come join us. The bridge location has not yet been announced. Look for an update in Constant Contact.



Welcoming Congregation Discussion Thursday, September 28, 7:00 PM on Zoom



Our 1st discussion for church year. It will be an open topic; anything from summer fun to anti-LGBTQ+. [Click here for the Zoom Link - WCC Discussion](#) Discussions are open to everyone and are held on the 4th Thursday of each month during the church year

Life Learning Offerings

Autumnal Equinox Poetry Circle Friday evening, September 22nd 7:00 PM at 14 Main St Parlor

Autumn officially begins on Saturday, September 23rd at 2:50 AM EDT. Since 1996 we have held poetry circles at Old Ship at the spring and fall Equinoxes, and at the Winter Solstice. Bring a favorite fall poem, or one that has been a sustaining source of inspiration or hope in your life. All are welcome, with or without a poem, as we honor crossing from summer into fall. [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) Questions? elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com or 781-749-0543.



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. For questions and Zoom link, email Lisa Sawyer.

Men's Breakfast – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month. Our next gathering will be September 10 – on Zoom. Contact Ralph Brown (ralph.e.brown@gmail.com) or Rich Elliott (richelliott56@gmail.com) for information and, for the Zoom link.

Ceilidh! – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, September 5, 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 or for the Zoom link: EECornetta@aol.com. The zoom link is: <https://zoom.us/j/92888235659?pwd=M3NEcVNibjdqM1RvUHhTUm9aN21Edz09>

Fiber Funship

Fiber Funship is still meeting on Wednesdays at 1:00 PM in member's homes during the good weather. For info contact [Diane Elliot](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

Next Meeting is Saturday, September 16, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome! Here is the link to the meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84868564251?pwd=OTZrakFRU0tjMGkvYnVuSlh6Y0hZdz09>



Sunday, September 10 — Come to our first service of the new church year with your water and with A DONATION FOR OUR NEW NEIGHBORS AT THE QUINCY FAMILY WELCOME CENTER AND TEMPORARY SHELTER!

This new shelter is one of several opening across the state to serve the increase in migrants, especially from Haiti and South America, and those experiencing homeless. Although this is a state funded shelter, there are still many needs. Donations needed include baby wipes, strollers, new car seats, portable playpens, diapers (all sizes), formula, milk (powdered), toothbrushes, toothpaste, body wash, unscented Dove bar soap, men's and women's deodorant, Cerave baby lotion, Vaseline, individual packets of Pedialyte and gift cards to Target and Walmart. (If you donate cash, the SJC will purchase additional gift cards). Members of the SJC will be available to take your donations. If you are not at church that Sunday, you can drop your donations off to the office at 14 Main Street.

Public Stand on the Side of Love, on Saturday, September 9 — First Parish in Norwell has invited Old Shippers to join them on the Norwell bridge over Rt. 3 from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, September 9th to demonstrate our commitment to love, diversity, and justice. Bring your rainbow flags and other signs of love to show support for these values on the South Shore. For more information, contact [Ellie Handleman](#) at ellie@thehandlemans.org.

Food Donations for the Hingham Food Pantry— We collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry each week in the Meeting House; there is a basket in the vestibule for donations. At this time, the following items are especially needed for the pantry: Cookies, Pasta Sauce (red sauces preferred), 64 oz Juices, Mac & Cheese, Rice Sides, and Minute Rice. 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.

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop In Book Group meeting on September 17 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom — All are welcome to join us as we discuss North To Boston: Life Histories from the Black Great Migration in New England by Blake Gumprescht. This book tells the story of 10 individuals who came from six

southern states fleeing racism. They primarily settled in Roxbury, Dorchester, and Mattapan. The book provides a glimpse into the real lives of ordinary people living in Boston's black community. Here is the Zoom link for the September meeting:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83649714602?pwd=bHF5K2JTZgzWktzMjlHaTk0UWpOQT09>

Anderson Veteran's House Lunches — During the month of August, Old Shippers provided bag lunches twice a week to the veterans living at the Anderson House on Fort Hill Street. Thanks to Eileen McIntyre, Lisa Sawyer, Judi Flaherty, Charlotte Champagne, Jack Gomez, Brenda Black and Ron Pollara, and Davalene Cooper for providing the lunches on specific days.

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.

Learning about the Whole of Old Ship's

History: This summer, Laura Harbottle, Carol Valentine, and Eileen McIntyre have been exploring Old Ship's history as it relates to enslaved and indigenous peoples. This effort is part of the work of the Task Force on Widening the Circle of Concern and also is supported as part of our social justice commitment to dismantling white supremacy. We look forward to learning more about their work as the church year progresses. In the meantime, we are grateful for their efforts to learn about the whole of our Old Ship history. --Davalene Cooper, Chair of the Task Force



Merrie Market Planning is Underway!

While most of us are still enjoying these last lazy days of summer, the Merrie Market elves have already begun planning for a great event on Saturday, December 9th! We are excited to continue this annual tradition of merriment and fundraising in a wonderful new location: the Hingham Community Center. Lisa Patterson has graciously agreed to serve as chair this year—Thank you, Lisa!! Many hands will make light work as we get closer to the big day.

For now, please save the date (Saturday, December 9th) and start gathering your Treasures. As always, we are seeking items in excellent condition: including silver, china, jewelry, antiques, art, pottery, housewares, linens, and holiday items. If you have any questions, or want to make your donations early, please contact [Lisa Patterson](#):



pattersonlisa66@gmail.com or 617-529-1192. Please drop off your items to 14 Main Street during office hours and label for Merrie Market. This is an easy and fun way to help our beloved Old Ship mission and engage with each other and the community. Stay tuned for details about the many volunteer opportunities that will be available to help make the day a great success.



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, September 7, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) [Click here for the agenda](#)
- **Deacons** - Wednesday, September 13, 7:00 p.m.
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday., September 19 1:30 p.m. Zoom/Parlor

Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2021 we were able to convert used cartridges into almost \$500 of office supplies! Drop off your cartridges in the cabinet in the outer vestibule of the Parish House 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

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