



First Parish, Hingham  
**Old Ship Church**

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

[office@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:office@oldshipchurch.org) [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org)

## November 2023 Monthly Newsletter

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*Deadline for December's newsletter: Tuesday, November 21, 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!](#)

### Services for November:

#### **Sunday, November 5** **Service of Remembrance**

During the service we will name all the Old Ship members and friends who have died during the past year, and then will be invited to name family members and friends who have passed as well.

**We are also invited to bring a photo or memento of any family member or dear friend who has died at any time in the past; during the service we will bring these items forward to an altar of memory (all items will of course be returned following the service).**



#### **Sunday, November 12** **Comfort and Complacency**

Are there things to which, in Martin Luther King's words, we ought not become accustomed?

#### **Sunday, November 19**

## **Harvest of Gratitude**

Given the injustices towards the marginalized people on which this nation was founded, can we give thanks with an open heart?

## **Wednesday, November 22**

### **Interfaith Thanksgiving Service**

As we have for many decades, Old Ship hosts this annual Thanksgiving service, which is sponsored by the Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association. We will hear from clergy and other leaders from the various faith communities in our two towns; musical offerings will also be offered by several congregations. The link will be on our website later this month.

## **Sunday, November 26**

### **Rev. Dick Fewkes, pulpit guest**

#### **The Golden Rule in Religion and Politics**

All of the World Religions have variations of the so called Golden Rule as a favorite teaching but few are able to live up to its application in the real world of religion and politics. How are we as UUs doing?

## **The Minister's Monthly Musings**

The conflict between Israel and Hamas continues to keep me on edge. I had written that the ethic preached by Jesus urged all people to forego inflicting harm for revenge or retaliation. I expected this advocacy to be ignored, because of course everybody's feelings among supporters of Israel, were full of a desire for revenge for the atrocities committed by Hamas on October 7. Yet as of this writing a full-scale ground assault has not been commenced in Gaza by Israeli forces, though plenty of damage has been inflicted from the skies.



There is some speculation that the War government put together by Israel is having second thoughts about an urban invasion.

People are asking, as they should be, what are the next steps and the steps after that? US diplomacy seems to be bent on keeping the war from widening. That is a good aim, but is there any way to put the genie back in the bottle? A cease-fire is urgently needed, now, to prevent humanitarian catastrophe.

Again, what I write here may quickly be superseded by events. I claim no special insight or expertise in this area, I only have the hope that we can avoid further massive bloodshed on all sides.

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 [edmuund@gmail.com](mailto:edmuund@gmail.com) (yes, that's two "u"s).

## **Message from the Board of Trustees**

Last month, the Board of Trustees recommended

three areas of focus for the remainder of this year. On Sunday, Oct. 29 the Board held a discussion on these items where members shared their thoughts and asked questions on the recommendations. This month we look forward to focusing our work on: Strengthening community bonds. The continued strengthening of our church community remains our highest priority. There are many ways to deepen connections with each other. These can include sharing worship, engaging in congregational discussions, doing committee work, taking lifelong learning classes, meditating together, or volunteering at our upcoming Merrie Market.



Planning to build Parish Community Space Secondly we will begin planning for Parish Community Space to be built adjacent to the Meeting House. The Board is committed to this being a transparent process in which our congregation will be updated and consulted. This month the Board will select a qualified team to begin this long term project. (See "Community Space Team Members Sought" below)

Understanding and discussion of white supremacy culture. The Board believes this work is critical for the health of our congregation and in alignment with the first three of our Unitarian Universalist Principles. In November members of the Widening the Circle Task Force are offering a Zoom class Widening the Circle of Concern: An Exploration of White Supremacy Culture within Unitarian Universalism. We urge members to attend this three session class to be held on Zoom beginning Nov. 1. Discussion on white supremacy culture will be further explored with regard to proposed changes to Article 2 of the UUA bylaws. See this link for details: [Article2Changes](#).

### **Community Space Team Members Sought**

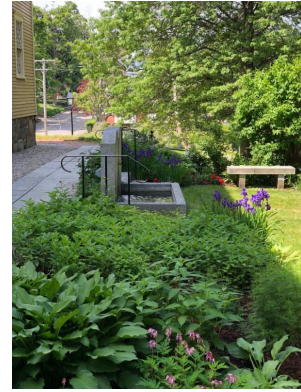
The Board is looking for interested and qualified members to join our Parish Community Space team. We are specifically looking for members with *experience in construction, engineering, architecture, landscape design, project management, and finance. Past experience with local planning boards is a plus. Members should also have good communication skills and be able to work cooperatively.* If this sounds like you, please send an email summarizing your background and skills to [president@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:president@oldshipchurch.org).

### **Eastern Bank Account Findings**

At the Annual Meeting last May it was noted that we lacked an understanding of the purpose of approximately \$43K currently residing in two Old Ship bank accounts at Eastern Bank. Our Treasurer Jack Gomez committed to research the matter and report back to the congregation. Jack, along with a team of three prior Treasurers and our Accountant, reviewed the available records and combined their recollections of these accounts which date back to 2006. Unfortunately, due to a lack of clarity in bookkeeping occurring over the years, which included several treasurers and bookkeepers, the current purpose for the \$43K at Eastern Bank is impossible to determine. With the Board's consent, the \$43K existing in Eastern Bank has now been designated as part of Old Ship general operating funds. Treasurer Gomez is confident that the current process, and balances, for designated fund transactions and record keeping is sound. This is a rather technical subject and if anyone would like to discuss this further, please contact Treasurer [Jack Gomez](#).

## Old Ship Memorial Garden

Please join members of the Memorial Garden Committee after service on November 5th in the garden, directly behind the pulpit. We will answer your questions about the garden's history, and invite you to consider using the garden as a repository for your cremains. You can also chose to be commemorated by having your name engraved on the granite walkway. Use of the garden is for church members, friends and their families.



## Fellowship Hour & Snacks:

**This Sunday, November 5th** fellowship hour with coffee will take place outside the Meeting House. It will be hosted by the Friends of Old Ship Meeting House, before they take you on a fascinating tour back inside at 12:00 p.m..



## ***Seasonal Vespers – Wednesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6, and Dec. 13, 6:00 p.m.***

We are invited to gather for just over half an hour in the Meeting House (or to attend on Zoom) for our annual Vespers services. During this sometimes hectic season, we can share a time of quiet, readings, and music in a gently lit Meeting House.



## 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**

## Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

It has been great seeing all of you and catching up over the past weeks. Autumn is in full swing and this is the time of year I put my time and energy into planning the music for the Christmas Eve service. I know, I know -- Christmas still feels so far away! But as you may be aware, there is a lot of music for this service and the choir works hard to bring it to life. While preparing for this service is definitely a lot of work, it's *fun* work! And the reward is sharing beautiful music with all those in attendance. As per tradition, we will have a brass quintet, along with other special guest musicians. If you're interested in being involved, musically or otherwise, please feel free to reach out! In the meantime, I hope to see you at Sunday services. Come say hello if you haven't already.

Musically Yours,  
Christopher



## WISDOM OF THE POETS

### WILDPEACE

Not that of a ceasefire,  
let alone the vision of the wolf and the lamb,  
but rather  
as in the heart after a great excitement  
you can only talk about the weariness.  
A peace  
without the big noise of beating swords into ploughshares,  
without words, without  
the heavy thud of the rubber stamp: I want it  
gentle over us, like lazy white foam.  
A little rest for the wounds -  
who speaks of healing?  
(And the orphans' outcry is passed from one generation  
to the next, as in a relay race:  
the baton never falls.)

I want it to come like wildflowers,  
suddenly, because the field  
needs it: wildpeace.

Yehuda Amichai ( 1924-2000)  
Israeli poet  
Translated by Chana Bloch



And the words of Palestinian-American poet Naomi Shihab Nye speaking of "the long sorrow of the color red". Here is part of the "Dialogue between Israeli and Palestinian teens:

"Let's change places  
the teenagers said.  
For a week, I'll be you  
and you be me."  
Knowing that if they did  
they could never fight again."

And in her poem ALL THINGS NOT CONSIDERED she asks:

"Are people the only holy land?"

A final note by Julius Lester:

"History is not just facts and events. History is also a pain in the heart, and we repeat history until we are able to make another's pain in the heart our own.

Responses are most welcome. ([elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com))

## Life Learning Offerings

*click here to see our [2023-2024 Life Learning Web Page](#)*



**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](mailto:Lisa.Sawyer).

**Men's Breakfast** – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning, **8:30 a.m.**, of each month. Our next gathering will be **November 26th**– in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. Contact Ralph Brown ([ralph.e.brown@gmail.com](mailto:ralph.e.brown@gmail.com)) or Rich Elliott ([richelliott56@gmail.com](mailto: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, November 7th 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>

## The Gathering/Fiber Funship

Fiber Funship will now be called The Gathering. We will meet **every Wednesday at 1:00** at 14 Main. All women are welcome! For info contact [Diane Elliot](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

## Sacred Texts Meditation Group

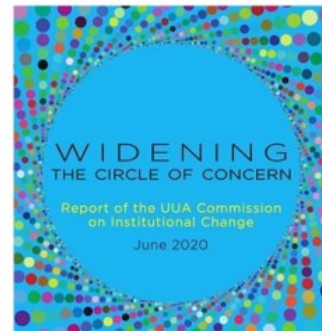
**Next gatherings: Thursday, November 9th  
4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Zoom**

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](#).

### **Widening the Circle of Concern Class begins Wednesday, November 1 at 7 p.m. on Zoom**

— The UUA's Commission on Institutional Change published its audit of white privilege and the structure of power within Unitarian Universalism in 2020. This report, "Widening the Circle of Concern," makes findings and recommendations regarding the problems of racism and white supremacy culture within Unitarian Universalism. This three week class will consider the report's recommendations and how we can make its findings visible in the Old Ship community. How might we widen our welcome and encourage more diversity, inclusion, and equity? Questions or to sign up, contact Davalene Cooper, [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) or Ellie Handleman, [ellie@thehandlemans.org](mailto:ellie@thehandlemans.org). Here is the Zoom link for the class: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87485557701?pwd=JFbofei1fai6PZGKzwdDiP8YZmYir4.1>.



### **Rediscover the Meeting House Sunday, Nov. 5, noon, Meeting House**

Let's go deeper behind the well-known facts about the Old Ship Meeting House. In this session, we'll examine who worshipped here, how and why they changed the building, and how they influenced the development of our country. Led by members of the Friends of the Meeting House, this is the tour that the experts get!



### **Serving Others**

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

*Next Meeting is Saturday, November 18, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome! Here is the link to the meeting:*

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89323116612?>

[pwd=O0WGNra1piFvG52qMyW1wSCrApN5d3.1](https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89323116612?pwd=O0WGNra1piFvG52qMyW1wSCrApN5d3.1)



#### **November Special Plate Collection: Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore**

— Given the increase in the need to provide shelter for families without homes throughout the Commonwealth and on the South Shore, we have selected the Friends as our special plate recipient for the month of November. Donations can be made online through the Old Ship

website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore. The special plate collection during a Sunday service will be announced in a weekly Constant Contact.

**What can you do to affect Climate Change? Presentation on Tuesday, November 7 at 7 p.m. in the Meeting House** —As part of our work for climate justice, we are hosting a forum on what we as individuals can do to affect climate change. Join us for a community discussion on ways each of us can act now to care for our common home—Planet Earth. Presenters, including members of the Hingham Climate Plan Committee and Hingham Net Zero, will provide specific ways each of us can act now and in the near future to help protect our common home. Please share this information with your family and friends.

If you were not able to join us on October 24 to view the film, *The Letter*, it can be viewed at [Home - The Letter \(theletterfilm.org\)](http://theletterfilm.org)

**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: Pasta Sauce, Healthy Cereal, Grape or Strawberry Jelly, Rice, and Cookies. Also, as another way to donate food, we are pleased to hear that the box for donations is back at the front of Stop and Shop!

**Public Standout for Side With Love on Saturday, November 4** — First Parish in Norwell has invited Old Shippers and others to join them on the Norwell bridge over Rt. 3 from 8-10 a.m. on Saturday, November 4 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.

**Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group meeting on November 19 at 7 p.m. on Zoom** — All are welcome to join us as we discuss *There There* by Tommy Orange. This novel follows twelve characters from Native communities who are traveling to a big Powwow. Together, these characters share “the plight of urban Native Americans—grappling with a complex and painful history, with an inheritance of beauty and spirituality, with communion and sacrifice and heroism.” Here is the Zoom link for the November meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89681672529?pwd=SPt6lN01bScsOhLseHeOwdThbsuk61.1>.

**News from the UU Urban Ministry** —

**Community Conversations:** This year, the theme for community conversations is how housing has contributed to racial inequity, especially in Boston. These conversations will examine various aspects of this topic, including public housing, affordable housing, and new models of housing. The first conversation is *Housing and Racism in Boston: A History* on **November 14 from 6-7 p.m.**, both in person and on Zoom. Details can be found at [Community Conversations: Housing and Racism in Boston: A History \(w/ Byron Rushing\) | UUUM - Boston, MA.](#)

**Holiday Gift Shopping?** Consider supporting a Roxbury-based artist of



color through the UUUM's Directory of Artists, which can be downloaded or viewed at [Arts and Humanities Programming | Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry \(uuum.org\)](https://uuum.org). This is an opportunity to peruse and purchase some incredible local art while supporting artists of color.

**Thanksgiving Fund for Father Bill's & Mainspring** — Father Bill's serves turkey dinners to those in need at Thanksgiving. There will be two community meal services, one in Brockton and one at the new Housing Resource Center in Quincy. Meals also are delivered to those who are homebound or alone on Thanksgiving. Father Bill's expects to provide about 1500 meals, which will be a single day record for the organization. As a result, Father Bill's needs to raise \$15,000 for this program. We at Old Ship support Father Bill's in many ways and we encourage our community to support this special outreach for the holiday. Donations can be made at [Thanksgiving Fund – Father Bill's & MainSpring \(helpfbms.org\)](https://helpfbms.org). Thanks in advance for your support!

**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](mailto:Davalene.Cooper@oldshipchurch.org), Keeper of the List.

**Old Ship Church  
HANDMADE , NATURAL, WREATHS FOR  
SALE**

*Our Wreaths will be more beautiful than ever. Please spread the word and make sure you get yours at the time and place indicated. We are making fewer wreaths this year.*

*Made with love, Cheers, The Wreathmakers of Old Ship Church*



**Merrie Market - Saturday, December 9th  
Merrie Market Elves Needed!**

We are now just a little over one month away from Merrie Market and we are kicking our preparations into high gear. We need YOUR help to make it a success. Volunteers are needed for many tasks including: baking for the bake table, donating silent auction items, donating themed basket contents, setting up on the evening of 12/8, working the market on 12/9, and cleaning up. There is something for everyone!

You can [click here \[https://tinyurl.com/Merrie2023\]](https://tinyurl.com/Merrie2023) to register to volunteer online, or you



can email Lisa Patterson or call/text her at 617-529-1192 to volunteer, or if you have any questions. Treasures can be dropped off at 14 Main during office hours. We are seeking items in excellent condition, including silver, china, jewelry, antiques, art, pottery, housewares, linens, and holiday items.

Merrie Market is our biggest fundraiser of the year. It is an easy and fun way to support our beloved Old Ship and engage with each other and the community. Many hands make light work, so please join in the merrie making in whatever way you can!



## 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, November 2, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) [Click Here for the Agenda](#)
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Sunday, November 5, 9:00 AM
- **Deacons** - Tuesday, November 7, 7:00 p.m.
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday., November 21st 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 2022 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!



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