



First Parish, Hingham
Old Ship Church

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

office@oldshipchurch.org www.oldshipchurch.org

December 2023 Monthly Newsletter

Merrie Market: Saturday, December 9th!

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Deadline for January's newsletter: Tuesday, December 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!](#)

Services for December:

Sunday, December 3 :
Jonathan Pierce, Pulpit Guest

Sunday, December 10
Christmas Myths

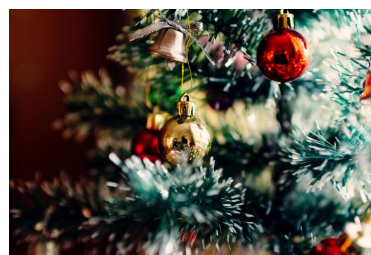
How does the Christmas story resemble birth narratives of other holy figures?

Sunday, December 17
Christmas In the Trenches

How does the Prince of Peace come into theaters of war?

Sunday December 24th 5:00 p.m.
Christmas Eve Service

As in past years, Old Ship's Christmas Eve service will continue the beloved tradition not only for those of us who regularly worship here, but for many



others in the wider community. All are warmly welcomed to our beloved Old Ship Meeting House for traditional carols, readings both traditional and not so traditional led by Edmund - as well as beautiful music from Christopher and the Choir.

The Meeting House fills early; wise ones plan to arrive before 4:30.

Sunday, December 31st Sharing Service

Our New Year's tradition of having a Sharing Service to welcome in the New Year continues! This will be a lay run service of sharing readings, poetry, or maybe just some wonderful thoughts you have. Please come with an open heart, a comfy outfit, *and a reading to share with fellow congregants* in peace and warmth. Our Sharing Service is one of our yearly favorites. There will be hot chocolate afterwards!

Seasonal Vespers – Wednesdays, Nov. 29, Dec. 6 and 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. [Click here for the Zoom link:](#)

<https://zoom.us/j/93959900940?>

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VESPERS AT OLD SHIP

90 main street
Hingham, Ma.
6:00 Wednesdays
Nov 29
Dec 6, & 13th

longer sleeping
back into light. A
candle lit in
church, casting
shadows hundreds
of years old, and a
half-hour of
listening and being.

We hear words of
peace and comfort,
words that lift us,
and silence that
invites our inner
thoughts as we
listen to the
softly of this

ancient Meeting
house.
Join us for this time
of self reflection.
All are welcome at
Old Ship's 1st
Parish, Hingham

Rev. Edmund Hospitalized

The Board is saddened to share that Rev. Edmund has been hospitalized following a second fainting spell while visiting family in Georgia over the holiday. Rev. Edmund expects to undergo testing this week to determine the cause and to pursue treatment. Please keep Rev. Edmund in your thoughts and prayers. We are very hopeful that Rev. Edmund will quickly return to health and back amongst us soon.



The Minister's Monthly Musings

Well, we're into it now. 2023's version of the Great American Holiday Marathon. Thanksgiving is behind us.. Beyond that are Hanukkah, Santa Lucia, Winter Solstice, Christmas, Kwanzaa, St. Stephens Day, New Years, and Twelfth Night. Ahead for many of us are shopping, shopping, shopping, making of lists, checking them twice, cooking, throwing events, attending events, rehearsing for events, listening to music we only listen to once a year, trying to find that



indefinable holiday spirit, and maybe a few quiet moments when we can reflect on the future and the past and deep deep questions of family and home.

The questions of the Magi: where have we come from, where are we going, what is our tribe? Many of us around this time of year experience sadness, anxiety, guilt, loneliness amidst the relentless cheer we hear blaring from every speaker in every store. The darkness and cold carry a certain gloom, though we fight back by festooning our houses and our shrubbery with candles and twinkling light displays. This being America, whole neighborhoods get into the act of trying to out-glow each other, and one of the great entertainments of the season is driving around trying to find the most over-the-top light display.

What would December be without holiday havoc?

Blessings,
Edmund

Office Hours will resume when Edmund returns.

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).

Board of Trustees December Update

November was a busy month at Old Ship. We on the Board were happy to see progress being made in all three of our focus areas. This month we practiced **strengthening our community bonds** in a number of areas with a number of activities only some of which we described here. Early this month, volunteers made and quickly sold holiday wreaths, while prep began in earnest for our upcoming Merrie Market. Then on November 18, eighteen people attended our first community dinner at our space at 14 Main St. Also, on November 20, Old Shippers joined our fellow UUs in Quincy for a candlelight vigil on Transgender Day of Remembrance. Also, this month preparations began for a Board coordinated dinner for families living in shelters through South Shore Friends of the Homeless which will take place on Dec. 12 at the Congregational Church.



Also, we started our congregation work on understanding **White Supremacy Culture**. On November 1, our Widening the Circle Task Force began a seminar on White Supremacy in Unitarian Universalism. This seminar was held on three consecutive Wednesdays and attended by twenty Old Shippers. It is expected more follow up work will be scheduled on this important topic in the new year.

Finally, this month the Board announced the creation of our initial **Community Space Team (CST)**. The six member team comprises Elaine Gomez, Laura Harbottle, Stuart Patterson, Ron Pollara, John Sneath and Dennis Hogan as the Board liaison. The CST will operate with Board oversight, hold open meetings and provide regular updates to the congregation. We expect this long term project to be multi-phased and require the talents and participation from a

variety of congregants To begin with, there will be a congregational meeting specifically on the community space planning early next year. Please stay tuned for more information on this exciting project!

Trish McAleer
Board President
Old Ship Board of Trustees

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

Musical Notes



Dear Old Ship,

Calling all singers! If you would like to sing in the choir for Christmas Eve, now is the time to let me know. I'm looking forward to our yearly service full of readings and beautiful music, all set in our historic building. As per tradition, we will have a top notch brass quintet to help enhance our musical experience, culminating in Handel's Hallelujah Chorus. It's not to be missed! So, whether you're singing in the choir (which I hope you will) or enjoying the service as a congregant, I look forward to seeing you there!

Wishing you and yours a wonderful holiday season!

Musically,
Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

If each day falls
inside each night,
there exists a well
where clarity is imprisoned.

We need to sit on the rim
of the well of darkness
and fish for fallen light
with patience.

Pablo Neruda (1904-1973)



comments always welcome: 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 **December 31st** – in 14 Main St. Parlor and 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, December 5th 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 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 30th

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](#).

Fellowship Hour & Snacks:

Coffee hour will be held at 14 Main Street. **Last names beginning I - P** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, December 3rd**. 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 bring your food item ready to go. Food can be left in it's box or served on a paper plate. Thanks everyone.

Merrie Market - Saturday, December 9th A Few More Merrie Market Volunteers Needed!

Merrie Market, our biggest fundraiser of the year, is quickly approaching! A few more volunteers are needed to fill the following tasks:

- **Cashiers** at the Treasures Table: Morning shifts (8:30-11:30am) and afternoon shifts (11:30am-2:30pm) are still available.
- **Silent Auction donations:** Do you have something special you could donate? Fine art, sports tickets, theater or symphony tickets, vacation home rental, or other fun experiences? Please contact [Nina Wellford](#).



Treasures can still be dropped off at 14 Main during office hours through Wednesday 12/6. We are seeking items in excellent condition, including silver, china, jewelry, antiques, art, pottery, housewares, linens, and holiday items.

Baked goods for the bake table can be dropped off at the Hingham Community Center on Friday, 12/8 between 5pm and 7pm, or on Saturday, 12/9 before 8am. All items should be packaged and labeled. Email [Liz Flint](#) or call her 508-560-1572 with any questions.

If you have not yet done so, please click [here](#) to sign up to volunteer or donate. We hope to have all volunteers confirmed by THIS Friday 12/1. If you have any questions, please email [Lisa Patterson](#) or call/text her at 617-529-1192.

Many hands make light (and fun) work, so please join in the merrie making in whatever way you can!

WREATHS

17" hand made door wreaths will be sold at the Old Ship Merrie Market
Saturday, December 9th from 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Hingham Community Center

70 South Street

Wreaths are available until November 30th, please call Diane Elliott 781-264-6234



27th ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE POETRY AND SONG EVENING

**Thursday, December 21st, 6:45
PM Meeting House and ZOOM**



Everyone is cordially invited to honor the 27th Winter Solstice celebration. The musical prelude begins at 6:45 PM and the poetry program begins at 7 PM. Audience members are invited to share a favorite winter poem, or simply come and listen. Jacqueline Schwab (Rev. Edmund's wife) will be performing, as will Rich Jensen and the Crossroads Singers. [Click here for the Zoom Link](#). More information will be forthcoming. (elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)

What if you didn't know when your next meal would be?

Father Bill's/MainSpring provides the answer for at least 150 people each night by serving a hot nutritious dinner to adults who are experiencing homelessness.



Old Ship works to Serve Others by coordinating 6 teams of cooks who donate the Main Dish and the Salad for some of those meals. Each team provides food once a quarter (for a total of 4 meals each year by each team) on either Monday or Thursday evenings. Several of the cooking teams need new members as the number served has increased with opening of Father Bill's new site, the Yawkey Housing Resource Center in Quincy.

Will you help by making a Main Dish or a Salad? Current team members say it easy and fun and deeply meaningful to truly help others in such an important way.

You will get a recipe (ex. lasagna, chicken & rice casserole, shepherds' pie depending on the team) and instructions on what you need to buy (costs average \$50) for your donation to your team's dinner. You can join team members in helping to serve the meal in Quincy, can drop off your donation if that better fits your schedule or ask another team member to pick up and drop off your donation.

If you are not able to help, do you know someone who might like to? Please let your friends know about the need for additional cooks. Our cooking teams have always been comprised of caring persons from anywhere in our community.

If you have questions or are interested in helping out, please contact **Brenda Black** at blackpollara@verizon.net or 781 740 2835.

Serving Others News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)



What can you do to learn more about how Climate Change and White Supremacy Culture are

Connected? — We are asking the congregation to engage in an “all church” read of a book that clearly connects these two issues that we have been focusing on as part of our social justice work. The book is *Climate Change is Racist: Race, Privilege and the Struggle for Climate Justice* by Jeremy Williams. The author argues that climate change “is structurally racist, disproportionately caused by majority White people in majority White countries, with the damage unleashed overwhelmingly on people of colour.” This is a short, 163 page book and our hope is that many of you will read it and then gather with us in small groups to talk about it around Martin Luther King’s birthday in January. More details about those conversations will be in the January newsletter.

December Special Plate Collection: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s Guest at Your Table Program

— Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 50 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals—the “guests” in Guest at Your Table.

The theme of this year’s GAYT program is Pursuing Liberation. The alarming rise of fascism, authoritarianism, and nationalism in the United States and in many places around the world is putting the lives of people, and the sustainability of the planet, in critical danger. These far-right forces have co-opted the word “freedom” for their own purposes, but the concepts of liberation and freedom mean something very tangible to UUSC’s grassroots partners in communities the world over. Whether they are fighting for the right to seek safety in Mexico and the United States, convincing the UN’s International Court of Justice to address the human rights threatened by the climate crisis in the South Pacific, or replenishing the energy of human rights activists in eastern Europe by addressing burn-out, UUSC partners invite us into an expansive, regenerative space to pursue liberation..

Throughout December, we will learn more about this year’s guests, but you also can learn more about them through the Stories of Hope book, available online at <https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/UUUSC-GAYT-23-24-Stories-of-Hope->

[Booklet.pdf](#).

Donations can be made in a variety of ways this month. You may make your donation as part of the December 2nd special plate collection in the Meeting House. You may make your donation online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: UUSC Guest at Your Table. Finally, you may make your donation directly to UUSC at the following site:

<https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595/#!/donation/checkout>. If you make your donation directly to UUSC, please make sure to indicate you are part of the First Parish in Hingham, Old Ship Church congregation. That way your donation will be included as part of our monthly outreach offering. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world.

Many thanks to the congregation for the donations in October for the Hingham Food Pantry. We sent a check for \$910.79 to the food pantry this past month. They will be able to use those funds to purchase more than \$2700 of food for their clients. Thanks to our community for this generous donation!

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, Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Healthy Cereal, Grape or Strawberry Jelly, Rice, and Cookies. Also, as another way to donate food, the box for donations is back at the front of Stop and Shop in Hingham!

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group— We do not meet in December; our next meeting is Sunday, January 21. All are welcome to join us in January as we discuss *Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society* by Arline T. Geronimus. The author “coined the term ‘weathering’ to describe the effects of systemic oppression—including racism and classism—on the body....Based on more than 30 years of research, she argues that health and aging have more to do with how society treats us than how well we take care of ourselves.”

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 next conversation, **A Long Road Home: Roots of Homeownership Inequity is on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, from 6:00pm - 7:00pm**. This program will explore affordable home ownership programs in Massachusetts. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81191027113>.

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 \(uum.org\)](#). This is an opportunity to peruse and purchase some incredible local art while supporting artists of color.

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.

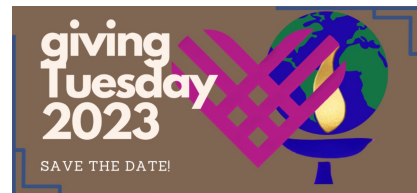
Holiday Dinner for Parents and Children Living in our Local Family Shelters



We are looking for volunteers to help out with the annual holiday dinner for the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore (FHSS). This year, the dinner is being held on **Tuesday December 12 from 6-8pm** at the Hingham Congregational Church, 378 Main Street. If you would like to help with this very special holiday celebration for the parents and children living in our local family shelters, please contact [Janice McPhillips](#) or at 781-249-9141. Old Shipper members and friends will be needed to prepare food at home and bring it to Hale Hall at the HCC, help with last minute food preparation tasks, help feed small children, serve the holiday meal, and clean up after the party. It is a wonderful event, and we are so happy to help FHSS once this holiday season!

Giving Tuesday - Tues Nov 28th

More than once the Old Ship community has been the net that has caught people during a free fall. I've always received love, care, and support without any judgement. I do my best to be there for others. Each of us are threads of the net that holds all of us in loving and caring support of Old Ship Community.



If you are able, I ask you to make an extra donation on Giving Tuesday 11/28 to help strengthen our net.

[Donate online](#)

Most importantly, remember the feeling of support given and received from one another. This is one of the greatest parts of our church.

What Is Giving Tuesday? - Celebrated on the Tuesday following both Thanksgiving and the widely recognized shopping events Black Friday and Cyber Monday, Giving Tuesday kicks off the holiday season, when charities, families, businesses, community centers, and students around the world come together in common purpose: to celebrate their cause and to give.

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 you contact information has changed, please email [Lisa](#) so she can update the Old Ship database.

Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, December 7, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the Zoom Link](#) [Click Here for the Agenda](#)
- **Choir Rehearsal** - Sunday, December 3, 9:00 AM
- **Deacons** - Tuesday, December 5, 7:00 p.m.
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday., December 12th, 11:00 a.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!



from your friends at
Old Ship Church!

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

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