



First Parish, Hingham  
**Old Ship Church**

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

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## April 2023 Newsletter

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**Deadline for May's Newsletter: Tuesday, April 18, 2023**

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



*(masks and vaccinations are strongly urged)*

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

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

### A Note from Erin

Frederick Buechner wrote, "Listen to your life. See it for the fathomless mystery it is. In the boredom and pain of it, no less than in the excitement and gladness: touch, taste, smell your way to the holy and hidden heart of it, because in the last analysis all moments are key moments, and life itself is grace."

Grace is our worship theme for the month. Here are some questions I'm thinking about as I prep for the month ahead perhaps; they resonate with you:

How have you experienced moments of grace?

How do you practice noticing beauty and love in your life?

In what ways do you experience beauty and love in life that are unearned, or 'graced'?

How does noticing gifts of life call you to live with more compassion or love?



“Community is another source of grace,” writes Matthew Fox. “In community we are meant to grace one another; to be sources of grace; healers by way of grace.

Peace,  
Erin

## Message & Update From Your Board Of Trustees

We are turning the March to April corner soon and looking ahead at the wrapping up phase of our 2022-23 church year. It feels like we are all trying to land the right balance. Doing the practical work that is right in front of us, like packing-moving-unpacking, readying documents for annual report, kicking off stewardship season, reading up on the UUA priorities for GA and our association’s candidates(s) for president, and the like. And, we are attending to the often slower *appearing* work of processing, reflecting, and adapting that is an important part of this time period at Old Ship, such as listening circles, reading about congregational transitions, speaking with each other about what it means to to change, to leave some things behind, to create improvements and vision for the future. We hope you will have the chance to join in on both aspects, or types, of our shared work. Maybe you know what the right mix of them is for you already, or you can use this time to reflect, to observe yourself, see what you are drawn to, or what a stretch towards trying out a different kind of activity is like.



New beginnings and spring.....they go hand in hand.

### Ministry Search Update:

The practical steps to participating in a search for a minister next year start with posting the opportunity with a descriptive congregational record and working together with the UUA Office of Ministerial Transitions field staff towards finding a match. Janice McPhillips and Maureen Butler met with Christine Purcell, Manager at this office, on March 21 to get a sense of this year’s timelines, the steps and any priorities. We are right on track in terms of timing, and we will post our open position and updated congregational information record in the next 2 weeks. There is a “pre- posting” place saver and a First Parish Hingham, Old Ship Church open position notice up now. Hiring a contract minister for next year remains the most sensible option and we earned the other day that we should not think of a contract minister necessarily as preaching and pastoral care only, as they can join us with much experience, training and a willingness and ability to support more than those 2 main roles. This could include the systems and adaptive leadership support often integral to interim time periods. Christine recommends that we ask for what we would like in the post, and not to limit ourselves at this juncture. Ministers will be looking for opportunities to apply for positions in April and May and we will use their offices organized system of receiving applications. The UUA office does not select applicants for congregations or

participate in our assessment or selection process. They are available for questions, consultation, problem solving and to provide big picture context, and the like. We will develop a small search team, board members, and perhaps 1-2 people from another committee or role for the reviews & interviews. We have mentioned in previous emails the possibility of engaging in a Developmental Ministry *after* next year, though truly, it is likely too early to know that yet. Best plan forward is: plan for a good match next year, continue adjusting, reflecting, adapting and working together as a congregation & with the UUA supports during this liminal time. Designing the plan ahead after a 35 year ministry is not, according to our experienced supporters, usually a quick process for a congregation. Patience and congregational self-reflection is important. It can be a very rewarding, full of growth, meaningful and successful time, especially when recognized as both the unique situation & opportunity that it is.

We will be providing updates in at least every other week in the emailed constant contacts, and we will, in the next one, provide links to many interesting resources on ministerial transitions so you will have easy access to them if you'd like to review. Additionally, feel free to connect with Janice or Maureen about our meeting with Christine Purcell, or anyone on the board regarding the ministerial search for next year.

The Board of Trustees,  
Maureen Butler, Acting President  
Jack Gomez, Treasurer  
Trish McAleer, Clerk  
Roy Harris, Trustee  
Janice McPhillips, Trustee  
Janet Asnes, President Emerita

## Parish House Sale Update

We would like to inform the congregation of our activities to maximize the return and safeguard the cash proceeds that we received from the sale of 107 Main Street. As a reminder, the sale was for \$2,350,000 and after commissions, recent legal fees, and other transaction fees we received \$2,212,459.



At the closing, the funds were placed into a Fidelity Government Money Market Fund which was yielding about 4.1%. Recognizing that much of this money would not be spent for many months and recognizing an opportunity to improve the return we purchased short term US Treasury bills/notes in early March. Specifically, we bought an approximately \$800 thousand Treasury with a 4.95% yield that will mature on June 27, 2023. Additionally, we purchased an approximately \$700 thousand Treasury yielding 5.127% and maturing on August 31, 2023. Finally, we purchased an approximately \$500 thousand Treasury yielding 5.155% which will mature on December 15, 2023, which left about \$200 thousand in the Government Money Market Fund which is fully liquid and carries a fluctuating return.

Our objectives are to protect the cash (safety), enhance the yield on our cash (return), and try to align the available cash with current and future payments

(liquidity). As time passes and the Treasuries mature, we will assess our anticipated cash needs and adjust new investments as appropriate. As our Parish House project advances, the Treasury investments will be reduced to cover costs, and the average maturity will shorten. Additionally, we will be maintaining separate cash accounts and separate accounting records for the Parish House Development Project to segregate the funds and records from our normal operating budget.

If you have any questions, please contact [Jack Gomez](#)



The annual pledge campaign is kicking off this week at Old Ship and will run through April 30th. Our theme this year is **Love in Action- Forward in Faith**.

This is an exciting time at Old Ship, as we work together to create a vision of the congregation we want to be in the years and decades to come. Now, more than ever, it is critical to build the solid financial foundation we need to keep us moving forward. It is up to each one of us to

support Old Ship to the best of our ability. **Our goal is 100% participation, no matter the size of your gift.**

You should have already received a giving guide and pledge card by mail. Please complete your pledge by returning the pledge card, or contacting the office, as soon as possible. For convenience, your pledge can also be made online by visiting [Online Pledge Card](#).

**The Stewardship Committee will be hosting themed coffee hours in our new location at 14 Main Street every Sunday in April (exception of Easter Sunday 4/9).** Please join us as often as you can to celebrate the generosity, abundance and enthusiasm present in our Old Ship community!

With warmth and gratitude,  
Bonnie Baynes, Mary Markel Murphy, Susannah Thomas, Janet Asnes  
2023/2024 Stewardship Campaign Committee

### **Fellowship Hour & Snacks:**

We are having food for coffee hour! **Last names beginning I - P are asked to bring snacks on Easter Sunday, April 9th.** 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 in the Fellowship Hall ready to go. Food can be left in it's box or served on a paper plate. Thanks everyone!



Since we don't have a working dishwasher or volunteers to hand wash dishes, we encourage bringing your own travel mug for coffee hour. Paper cups will

also be available.

## SUNDAY FLOWERS DONOR

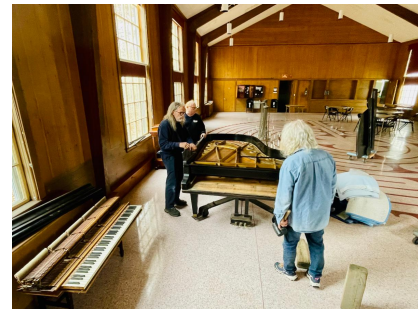
Interested in being a donor for our Sunday flowers? April 30 is available! You may provide your own arrangement, or the Sunday Flowers Committee will create a lovely arrangement for a \$50 charge. Contact Sharon Prehn ([prehn@verizon.net](mailto:prehn@verizon.net) or 781-925-0101).



## Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

Spring is here! Along with renewed life and more sunlight has come the long-awaited transition out of the Parish House and into 14 Main Street. Many thanks to all who have helped with the move! In addition to the seemingly countless boxes, we have had to figure out a plan for the wonderful Mason & Hamlin grand piano that has lived for many years at the Parish House. I am thankful to have such a beautiful instrument here at Old Ship and could not bear to part with it. If you've ever taken a close look at the instrument, you may have noticed that it has a beaten-up and aged exterior. But don't let the outward appearance fool you, this is an instrument worth keeping.



After several conversations, we have decided that this is the perfect opportunity to have the piano refurbished. It was built in 1922 and despite being 101 years young it's in remarkable playing condition. Working with Louis Gentile, our amazing piano tuner and technician, the goal is to have a thorough tune-up to the inner playing mechanisms as well as improve the outward appearance of the cabinet's finish. I am excited to see the end result of this musical makeover! If you would like to know more about this project, have any knowledge of how Old Ship came to own this instrument or would like to make a financial contribution to the refurbishment, please feel free to reach out to me -- I would be happy to speak with you! Included are pictures of the piano being picked up to be taken to Louis' shop in Quincy. Wishing you the best for a wonderful spring!

Musically,

## IOT is “on the move”

We’re still on the move!

Thanks to everyone who sorted, packed, took items to the swap, helped empty the Parish House and garage and unpacked. It takes a village!



The 3 chandeliers have been lowered, and are in need of a home for the next 2-3 years.

Please contact the office if you have space to donate.

The grand piano has been taken to Louis Gentile’s workshop in Quincy. Please contact the office or Christopher if you are interested in adding to the Music Fund toward refurbishing the piano.

The new shed to house Mark’s large equipment will be erected behind the Bell Tower on Monday, 3/27. Rubin has already spread a base of crushed stone.

Please contact Lisa in the office with ALL requests to reserve space at 14 Main for any class or gathering.

Please direct any questions or comments to:

[Carol Valentine](#), [Trish McAleer](#), [Jack Gomez](#) & [Ron Pollara](#)

**As of March 15th,  
First Parish Hingham, Old Ship  
Church's mailing address will be:**

14 Main Street  
Hingham, MA 02043



Do you have payments sent directly from your bank account? If so, please update the mailing address.

**Command Performance: Eunghee Cho, cello  
Atlantic Symphony Orchestra  
Sunday, April 2, 4:00 PM  
Old Ship Meeting House**



Atlantic Symphony Orchestra and Old Ship Church will host a Command Performance concert by celebrated cellist, Eunghee Cho. More information and tickets may be found online at [atlanticsymphony.org](http://atlanticsymphony.org) or call ASO at 781-331-3600

## April Wisdom of the Poets poem and in honor of National Poetry Month



Thank you, faithful things!  
Thank you, world!  
To know that the city is still there,  
that the woods are still there,  
and the houses, and the hum of traffic  
and the slow cows grazing in the field;  
that the earth continues to turn  
and time hasn't stopped,  
that we come back whole  
to suck the sweet marrow of day,  
thank you, bright morning,  
thank you, thank you!

poet Mark Strand, 1934-2014

Responses always welcome ([elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com))  
([elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com))\

Spring Poetry class will be postponed until the Fall

### Life Learning Offerings

*click here to see our [2022-2023 Life Learning Web Page](#)*



### Ongoing groups and gatherings

#### The Way of the Bodhisattva

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](#).

#### Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gatherings: Thursdays, **April 6th & 27rd** 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](#) .

**Men's Breakfast** – Meets on the second Sunday morning, 8:30 a.m., of each month – our next gathering will be **April 9th**—in person 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.

**Women's Breakfast and Conversation** – Ordinarily meets on the *fourth Sunday* morning of each month from 8:30 a.m. -10:15 a.m. The next meeting will be on **Sunday, April 23rd** by Zoom and in person. Open to all the women of the church. If you would like to attend go to: <https://zoom.us/j/92656862826?pwd=cGZwOHVzR0lpLzdPQ2ZmVnNjYVZBUT09>. We gather to share our lives and enjoy one another's company. Conversations are confidential and, again, all are welcome!

**Ceilidh!** – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on Tuesday evening, **April 4th**, at 7:00 p.m. We are currently planning to gather in the 14 Main St 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**

We will meet Wednesdays at 1:00 pm, in the 14 Main Street Parlor. For info contact [Diane Elliott](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

### **Listening Circles**

The report of the Winter Listening Circles informed and taught us many things about our thoughts and our yearnings for the First Parish Old Ship Community. Your answers to the question, "What do I yearn for?" expressed a deep desire for community. What does community look like for you? What can you do to help create the community you yearn to be a part of? Holding on to and appreciating what we gained from the circles we are now moving into our next round of Spring Listening Circles. There are 3 new questions that have been chosen in response to what we heard some of you ask for.



The Committee on Transitional Ministry hopes you will sign up and join us for what can prove to be a worthwhile event. We all appreciate your willingness to stay engaged. If you are interested in participating in a Listening Circle please contact Diane Elliott at 781-264-6234 or [dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com](mailto:dianeabbeyelliott@gmail.com)

Yours in Love and Faith,  
Diane Elliott, Michael Jordan, Lorraine Varney-Riggs, Chris Sullivan, Paul Stone, Janet Asnes.

### **Serving Others**

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

**Special Earth Day Programing from the Social Justice Council!** On Sunday, April 23,



the Social Justice Council will be presenting two programs related to climate change and climate justice. Each program will feature a short film (about 30 minutes) from the Current Revolution Film Series, a new film series about America's energy transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy



***First Program: This event will take place in the Old Ship Meeting House following the Sunday morning worship***

***service, starting about 11:45 a.m.*** We will view the first film, The Transformation Cannot be Stopped. This film "tackles the challenge of how the utility, auto, tech, and defense industries can help modernize the aging power grid to make it more secure and responsive to the needs of its users while enhancing environmental performance. With a focus on national security, economic prosperity, and environmental justice, the films, and campaigns will show how the nation can embrace smart policies and investments that support grid modernization through distributed renewable energy generation and the development of an electric vehicle infrastructure." Following the film, we will have time to discuss the film, as well as answer questions about renewable energy.

***Second Program: This event will be a Zoom only event at 7 p.m. on Sunday, April 23.***

We will view the second film in the series, Nation in Transition. This film focuses on the "coal-to-renewables transition on the Navajo Nation and across northern Arizona through the stories of workers, their families and communities, business and tribal leaders, utility executives, policy makers and environmental activists. The film offers a roadmap for accelerating and navigating just energy transitions for workers and communities everywhere." This film also highlights the way in which energy and climate decisions have negatively affected the poor and non-white communities in our nation. To register for the Zoom program, please contact [Davalene Cooper](#) for the sign up link.

**Special Plate for April: Massachusetts Chapter of Interfaith Power and Light** — We have chosen the Massachusetts chapter of Interfaith Power and Light as our special plate recipient for April. Since becoming a congregational supporter of this organization last year, we have been impressed with its work for climate justice and its assistance to churches and houses of worship working to become more energy efficient and carbon neutral. MassIPL says its "task is both daunting and exciting: to inspire and mobilize people of faith to do our part in bringing about what Joanna Macy calls The Great Turning—the global shift from a destructive, inequitable, extractive economy to a culture of conservation, fairness, and reverence." You may learn more about this amazing organization, including its work at the intersection of climate justice and dismantling white supremacy, at [Massachusetts Interfaith Power & Light \(massipl.org\)](http://massipl.org).

Although the special plate in the Meeting House will be on Sunday, April 23 as part of our Earth Day Programming, donations are accepted throughout the month of April [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to MassIPL or by sending your check to the church office, payable to

Old Ship, with MassIPL designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

**Food Donations for the Hingham Food Pantry**— We continue to collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry each week in the Meeting House; there is a basket in the vestibule for donations. ***Donations may also 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: Cookies, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Canned Beef Stew, Canned Ravioli, Beefaroni, or Spaghettios, Cheese or Peanut Butter Cracker Sandwiches, and Granola Bars.

### **Want to Help Provide Lunches for the Anderson Veterans Home in Hingham this Coming August?**

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 on Fort Hill Street in Hingham. Lunch consists of a deli-meat sandwich, chips, fresh fruit, cookie, and water or juice. Old Ship is responsible for the month of August; we are looking for volunteers to take one of the August dates and provide the six lunches. You could do this individually, as a family, or as a group of friends. The lunches are left in a cooler outside the side door of the home. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact [Davalene Cooper](#).

**Anti-Racism/Social Justice Book Group meeting on April 16 at 7 p.m. on Zoom** — Our April book is *The Sentence* by Louise Erdrich. This novel offers "profound insights into the effects of the global pandemic and the collateral damage of systematic racism." Here is the Zoom link for the March meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84810976357>.

**Upcoming Event at the UU Urban Ministry** — *Community Conversations: A New Path to Closing the Racial Wealth Gap* with Dr. Karilyn Crockett. Dr. Crockett will discuss new ways to look at and address the racial wealth gap in Boston and beyond. This is a Zoom event on April 18, 2023, from 6:00 PM – 7:00 PM. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81545572954>.

**Important New Film about Reparations** — Many of us studying white supremacy and the history of enslaved people have talked about reparations. There is a new documentary film that is available via streaming that follows the reparations debate in Evanston, Illinois, a city that has enacted a reparations program. The film, *The Big Payback*, can be seen at the following link: [The Big Payback | First Reparations for Black Americans Stirs Up Debate \(pbs.org\)](https://www.pbs.org/watch/2023/04/the-big-payback-first-reparations-for-black-americans-stirs-up-debate/). Additional information and resources on reparations may be found at [The Big Payback \(bigpaybackmovie.com\)](https://www.bigpaybackmovie.com).

**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.

**US Poet Laureate brings PoemJazz to  
Old Ship Meeting House  
Sunday, April 30 at 4:30 P.M.**

**POEMJAZZ**  
**ROBERT PINSKY**  
**LAURENCE HOBGOOD**

On Sunday, April 30 at 4:30 pm in the Meeting House, the Friends of Old Ship Meeting House invite you to sit in on a rich, spontaneous collaboration between two renowned artists, dubbed PoemJazz. In a unique musical conversation between poetry and jazz, U.S. Poet Laureate Robert Pinsky finds the music in his poems, and Grammy Award-winning pianist Laurence Hobgood improvises his jazz response.

Robert Pinsky, three-time United States Poet Laureate, has been dedicated to identifying and invigorating poetry's place in the world. He founded the Favorite Poem Project, in which thousands of Americans of varying backgrounds and ages share their favorite poems, Pinsky's poems have earned praise for their wild musical energy and range. Currently a professor in the graduate writing program at Boston University, he also has just published a memoir about his road to poetry, called *Jersey Breaks*. He and Laurence Hobgood, a Grammy-Award winning jazz pianist, composer, arranger and producer, created PoemJazz to reveal the intricate connections between the sounds and rhythms of poetry and jazz. We heard them here together back in 2018, and are thrilled to host them for a new session!

Following the concert, meet Mr. Pinsky and Mr. Hobgood and enjoy wine and appetizers at a reception in Ames Chapel, nearby in Hingham Cemetery.

The proceeds from PoemJazz will go to support the preservation of the Old Ship Meeting House.

Go to [www.oldshipfriends.org](http://www.oldshipfriends.org) for more information and to buy tickets for the concert only, or for both the concert and the reception (limited). Concert only: \$30 adults, \$10 students. Concert plus Reception: \$50 adults, \$20 students. Tickets as available will also be sold at the door.

**Plant Sale  
Saturday, May 20  
9:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

Calling all Old Shippers with gardens – the annual Old Ship Plant Sale is being reimagined for 2023 and will be held on the lawn in front of the Meeting House on Saturday May 20<sup>th</sup> from 9am to 1pm. As the days warm up and your perennials start poking their heads out of the ground, please consider digging and potting up for the plant sale. Please carefully label your plants with as much information as possible about habit, height and bloom time including a photo or a picture of the flower if you have one. We find that having photos



helps shoppers envision how the plant will look in their yard and this is one of the secrets to the huge success of our plant sales over the past years. If you don't have a home garden but would like to help, there are other ways to be involved which include potting up at Brenda Black's house in April, bagging up composted horse manure for sale some time in May, transporting plants from Brenda's house to the Meeting House on May 19, and of course, helping out the day of the sale. If you have any questions or need pots, need help digging and potting plants up, please contact Janice McPhillips at [jbbmcpPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcpPhillips@gmail.com) or 781-249-9141. Thank you!



## 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

- **Choir Practice** - Sunday, April 2nd 9:00 a.m., Meeting House
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday, April 4 1:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor
- **Finance Committee Meeting** - Tuesday, April 4 7:00 p.m. Zoom/14 Main Conference Room
- **Deacon's Meeting** - Wednesday, April 5 7:00 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, April 6 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor;  
[click for Zoom Link for this Meeting](#)
- **Choir Practice** - Sunday, April 9th 9:00 a.m. Meeting House

## Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to the Parish House and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2019 we were able to convert used cartridges into almost \$500 of office supplies! Drop off your cartridges in the office or on the table right outside of the office door. Any brand or type of cartridge is fine. Thank you!



# HAPPY SPRING!

from your friends at Old Ship Church!

First Parish, Old Ship Church | 107 Main Street, Hingham, MA 02043

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