



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)

## October 2024 Monthly Newsletter

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**Deadline for November's newsletter: Tuesday, October 22, 2024**

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

Zoom link opens at 10:15 a.m.

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

**September 29<sup>th</sup>**

***Shared Ministries, Celebrations, and Covenant  
with Rev. Carie Johnsen and Rev. Ken Read Brown***

With Love at the center, will celebrate our shared ministries confer the status of Minister Emeritus on Rev. Ken Read-Brown and affirm the future of ministry at First Parish in Hingham (Old Ship).



**Fellowship Hour  
Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>  
Ames Chapel**

Don't forget that Fellowship Hour on Sunday will be a celebration of Ken's Emeritus honorific. It will be held at Ames Chapel (12 South Street), the building on the South Street side of Hingham Cemetery. Groups may enjoy the pleasant walk through the cemetery, or, if preferred, may get a ride to the chapel and afterwards to their car. (Ames Chapel, by the way, is no longer a chapel, but a handsome reception building.)



**October Services**  
**Monthly Theme:**  
**Living Love Through the Practice of**  
**DEEP LISTENING**

**October 6<sup>th</sup> Underneath the Noise Rev Carie Johnsen**

Our days are busy. The congregation is in transition. The state of the nation is buried in political rhetoric. Democracy is at stake. International pressure impacts humanitarian efforts. How might we listen underneath the noise to be guided by our [new UU shared values](#)?

**October 13<sup>th</sup> The First Duty of Love Is To Listen Rev. Carie Johnsen**

Paul Tillich said, "The first duty of love is to listen." Let's explore this quote through the lens of cultural competence as we approach Indigenous People's Day.

**October 20<sup>th</sup> Love Guides Us Rev. Carie Johnsen**  
**with Pastoral Care Team**

In this annual Service of Remembrance, we pause to remember the life of Old Ship members who have departed this past year. Together we will explore the ways our loved ones continue to guide our days.

**October 27<sup>th</sup> TBD Rev. Danielle DiBona, Guest Minister**

## **INQUIRING MINDS**

**Rev. Carie responds to frequently asked questions.**

### **Will you be publishing your sermons?**

I do not have a print sermon for distribution. I lead services from notes. Preaching extemporaneously allows me to move with Spirit and respond in real time to the community. I find I am able to convey the message more authentically and meaningfully when preaching extemporaneously. This allows me to be more connected to the gathered community rather than a written text in front of me. The downside is there is no well-crafted sermon to distribute for those who are absent or wish to return to what they heard and experienced.

### **Will you be uploading services on YouTube services?**

I do not upload Sunday recorded services on YouTube. The practice of honoring the music and written work of musicians and authors is essential to being in right relationship and respecting creators' professional contributions and financial livelihood. While First Parish in Hingham has obtained some licensure and copyright permission for specific bodies of music, we do not have general copyright for the various authors whose written work we engage on Sunday morning. Equally, copyright laws require permission to distribute

## EVERYDAY ORDINARY THEOLOGIES

A message from the desk of Rev. Carie Johnsen

Let me begin by reiterating what you may have heard me say before, “I am glad to be here with the good people of First Parish in Hingham responding to the call of contract ministry.” These first couple months have been about getting to know all of you, building trust, witnessing your ministries, leading worship, and affirming the grace and complexity of congregational ministry. In it all, my love for congregational life is reaffirmed, albeit in a board meeting, pastoral care, or weaving worship. This is where, My YES to Life, my Spirit thrives.

For more years than I can recall, I have been turning to the Soul Matters Sharing Circle to find inspiration, ideas, resources and community for weaving worship. *The Soul Matters Sharing Circle LLC is a network of Unitarian Universalist congregations who follow the same monthly [themes](#) so we can more easily share small group material, as well as worship, sermon, music and children’s religious education resources.* [We, the subscribers/congregations are] *companions traveling a new journey together each month.*

This year, I have purchased the music and worship membership. This membership is available to all the members of the Music and Worship Committee. The 2024/25 overarching theme “The Practices of our Faith” is a way for us to connect to our [new UU core value of Liberating Love](#) with each of our monthly themes framed as a practice that helps us embody liberating love in our daily lives.

By the Way, this overarching theme also aligns with the Life Learning course I will be facilitating with Rich Elliott. The course “Love At The Center: Living our UU Values” will be offered on the Second Sundays November to June from 12:30 – 2:30. I hope you will join us.

The Soul Matters October theme is ***Living Love Through the Practice DEEP LISTENING***. A topic that seems quite timely as we move into new ministries together amid the complicated state of our nation and global communities. In the spirit of this month’s theme ***DEEP LISTENING***, I invite you to walk with these questions:

- Where do you engage the best practices of listening? Reflect on what makes you a good listener in these spaces? How might you apply your best practices to more complicated relationships?
- Looking through a lens of [cultural competence](#), where do you have the most room to grow in ease of relationships?
- What wisdom from your beloved ancestors guides your living? If you consulted them today, what wise counsel might they offer?
- Consider this congregations past and present journey with multiple



worship leaders both lay and professional. How do you stay open to the message? Where, when, and why do you shut down or get critical? How might you listen to spirit calling you forward?

I encourage you to reflect on these questions, explore them in your family and friend circle, engage them in church groups. You may notice I offer one for each week and they align with the worship services.

May we listen more deeply, engage with curiosity and wonder, open our hearts to life unfolding, and commit to growing souls, yours, mine, and ours.

In faith,  
Rev. Carie

[RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org](mailto:RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org)

Office phone 781-749-1679

Cell Phone 508-221-5295

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

## **Social Action Sunday Sunday Sept 29th**



For all ages- children and youth / teens . Join us to work together to make sandwiches and pack 80+ individual bagged lunches for Father Bills / Mainspring Quincy Center, supporting people experiencing homelessness. They are so appreciative of these extra lunches for the people who stop in and use the services.

In addition to having fun making the lunches, we will spend time getting to know each other and thinking, talking about future social justice projects we can take on together. We'd really like input from our participating children and youth!

We will have a Social Action Sunday every month- keep your eye out for the dates. Any questions please reach out to Trish McAleer, [President@OldShipChurch.org](mailto:President@OldShipChurch.org)

On 9/29 we will meet at the meeting house, attending the initial part of the worship service, then will make our way together to 14 Main St office/ kitchen/ classroom to get to work!

## **Board of Trustees October Update**

The October Update and the agenda for the Board Meeting will be in next week's Update.

The Board welcomes questions and comments from our members and friends. Please contact us at [President@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:President@oldshipchurch.org). We look forward to a great church year together with you!



Your Board of Trustees  
Trish McAleer, President

Janice McPhillips, Vice President  
Clayton Handleman, Treasurer  
Elaine Cusker, Clerk  
Karen Churchill, Dennis Hogan, Corey Fitz-Marquez; Trustees-at-large.

## 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](#) 508-560-1572

[Elaine Gomez](#) 781 820 4077.

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

[Claire Petrie](#) 617-642-2438

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

[Louise Smith](#) 781-690-1165

[Carie Johnson](#) 508-221-5295

## Musical Notes

Hello Old Ship,

I'm delighted that the new church year is underway. There is a wealth of hope and positive energy that's palpable. I'm looking forward to the year ahead in music. We will periodically have special guest musicians in addition to our fabulous choir. If you're interested in joining us, please feel free! We are always happy to see new faces and hear new voices in the choir.

I hope to see you there, whether you're sitting in the congregation or singing in the choir. May this year's music brings you peace, comfort, inspiration, and joy.

Musically Yours,  
Christopher



## WISDOM OF THE POETS

This is an excerpt from a poem from  
John O'Donohue

"Perhaps community is a constellation.  
Each one of us is a light in the

emerging collective brightness."

for the Wisdom of the Poets column with apologies, appreciation, and thanks to you,

Elizabeth

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



## Let's talk TRANSITION MINISTRY

This coming year, with Rev Carie as our Contract Minister, we have an excellent opportunity to use the time to move forward intentionally - recognizing that we are at a threshold, entering/evolving into a new stage of "Old Ship."

As our contract minister, Carie falls under what we in Unitarian Universalism call transitional ministry. This is an umbrella term for interim, contract and developmental ministries. Beyond the expectations laid out in our contract (worship, pastoral care, life learning class, and leadership support), the transitional minister's role includes supporting and serving as consultant during the time between settled ministers.



Several of you have asked Carie, "Can't you be our settled minister?" The answer is: nothing prohibits this option, however, it is considered wise to engage in a journey of being present in this moment and exploring the future of Old Ship before we consider that question. It is prudent to wait till at least the second year of a contract ministry to engage in this question.

In times of transition, the questions – who we are without our former minister, what is our unique ministry or mission, and how shall we go forward – are fundamental to a congregation. One key component in the transition process is the task of exploring these questions with a Transition Team. This specific group is charged with only one agenda as follows:

*To assist the Contract Minister and the congregation as we seek to use the time between settled ministers effectively. The transition team advises and consults with the transitional minister on a regular basis, communicates and bears witness to the fact that transition is ultimately the work of the congregation, and must be available to hear the concerns of members of the congregation (See Transition Team: A Tool for Interim Ministry)*

This transitional team will be a group of 4-6 people. The team should be reflective of the congregation's demographics and social identities. Most importantly Team members are members who are willing and able to listen to a cross section of the congregation without preconceived bias or becoming defensive. They are widely trusted and able to "Speak the Truth in Love" They attend church regularly and demonstrate an ongoing commitment to our congregation and its future. They bring a sense of creativity and openness

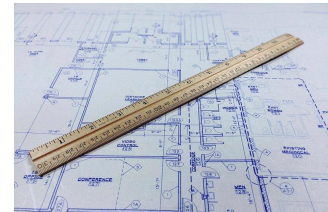
to change. With this description, one or more people are probably coming to your mind right now and we'd love to hear about them .

Identifying members and assembling the team is the work of a small group of leaders: Carie Johnson, Contract Minister, Corey Fitz-marques, Board of Trustees, Judi Flaherty, Committee on Ministry and YOU! The process begins with each of us reflecting on the qualifications and making suggestions. You will be invited to suggest members, possibly yourself or another member. You do not need to get permission for others to nominate others. We will receive the suggestions and explore willingness. From these suggestions a Transition Team is organized with an eye toward diversity, cohesiveness, and congregational trust. The congregation will ultimately commission the group with a charge to guide the transition time, engage the congregation, and communicate regularly with leaders and membership.

During the month of October, there will be opportunity for members of the congregation to ask questions in open circles on Sunday, October 6th with Judi Flaherty and Corey Fitz-Marquez and 13th with Rev. Carie, Judi and Corey. Both events will begin at 12:15 at 14 Main Street with zoom option. We will receive suggestions on Sundays or by email the first two weeks of October. The Transition Team will be announced in November with a commissioning of the team at the earliest possible date. Thanks for your time, energy and consideration on this matter. You are appreciated!

Corey Fitz-Marquez, Board of Trustees  
Judi Flaherty, Committee on Ministry  
Rev. Carie Johnsen, Contract Minister

### **Community Space Team** **Tuesdays 7:00 PM** **Zoom**



The Committee is returning to a weekly schedule by planning to meet via Zoom every Tuesday at 7-8:30 pm and we'd like to invite interested members of the congregation to attend to upcoming meetings of the committee that do not involve third-party contractors involved in the project. The Zoom Link for these meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85668053025?pwd=aGL8YDwh6KmialbL69NAeD1prFqc4w.1>

### **Life Learning Offerings**

*Our Life Learning Committee has completed the schedule of classes and groups for 2024-2025.*

**[Please click here for the schedule.](#)**



**Ceilidh! – The month of October only, Ceilidh will gather on the **second** Tuesday of the month. . This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, October 8th** at 7:00 p.m. We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor as**

well as on Zoom. Email [Eric Cornetta](mailto:Eric.Cornetta) with any questions about Ceilidh. The zoom link is: <https://zoom.us/j/92888235659>

### **The Gathering**

The Gathering will meet **every Wednesday at 1:00p.m.** in 14 Main Street Parlor. All women are welcome! For info contact [Diane Elliott](#) or [Carol Valentine](#).

### **Sacred Texts Meditation Group**

**Next gathering: Thursday, September 26th**

**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](#).

**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 members of the group. For questions and Zoom link, email [Lisa Sawyer](#).

**Men's Breakfast** – Meets on the Fourth Sunday morning of each month at **8:30 a.m.** in 14 Main St. Parlor and on Zoom. Our next gathering will meet on **Sunday, October 27th**. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and a Zoom, link.

### **Fellowship Hour & Snacks**

Fellowship Hour will be held outside the Meeting House (weather permitting). Last names beginning Q - Z are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on Sunday, October 6th. 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.



### **Friends of The Old Ship Church Pew Cleaning Team**

It has been years since the days of cleaning the pews - gently removing graffiti and treating the wood - led by Marty Saunders. The cleaning has started and will continue until completed. The several team efforts will be held on Tuesday mornings starting at 9:00 am. Please join members of the Friends - just show up! Thank you!





## Serving Others

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



Next Meeting is Saturday, November 2, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. All are welcome! Here is the link to the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89616584508?pwd=2jyjPJozSjVbJEOuwlK6qG5HB3sbm2.1>

**Opportunities this month to help those in need** —We have identified two specific projects to help our neighbors in need this month. Please help as you are able with one or both of this projects.

1. ***Blanket Drive for the migrant families at the Quincy Welcome Center on October 6*** — We are collecting NEW blankets for migrant families being served by Bay State Community Services. Bring your blanket to church on Sunday, October 6. The blankets will be delivered to Bay State the next day. If you are unable to bring your blankets to church that day, please drop them off at 14 Main before October 6. Thanks in advance for spreading warmth and love to these families.

2. ***Providing "Birthday Kits" for the Hingham Food Pantry on October 20*** — We are seeking to create 30 "birthday kits" for the Hingham Food Pantry. We are asking members of our community to put together a box of cake mix, a 12 ounce can of soda, and a can of frosting. Place these items in a bag and bring to church on October 20. The SJC will add candles and an aluminum baking pan. We discovered that the soda replaces the need for oil and eggs in the cake mix--and we tested this to ensure that the resulting cake was delicious (it was!). Here are the combinations of cake mix and soda to use in putting together your donation: Coca Cola + Chocolate Cake Mix, Sprite + Yellow Cake Mix, Dr. Pepper + Red Velvet Cake Mix, A&W Cream Soda + Vanilla Cake Mix, Barq's Root Beer + Spice Cake Mix, Canada Dry Ginger Ale + Carrot Cake Mix, Mountain Dew + Lemon Cake Mix, Fanta Strawberry + Strawberry Cake Mix, Sierra Mist + Butter Pecan Cake Mix, Pibb Xtra + Devil's Food Cake. Thanks for contributing to this project that will help our neighbors celebrate their birthdays!

**UU the Vote - get involved!** UU the Vote is partnering with Reclaim Our Vote of the Center for Common Ground, an organization that fights for voting rights and mobilizes communities of color. Ellie Handleman is making packets of 10, 20, or 30 postcards with all the information you need to write on them and send them out. You'll receive general instructions, instructions specific for the location you're addressing cards for, stickers you put on the cards (containing the meaty information about numbers they can call or websites they can visit to check on their voter registration, or to register), a list of addresses, and postcards. There will be a script for a sentence or so to write above the sticker, and a few phrases around the card (preferably in color). The addresses are to be hand-written on the cards. Ellie can make up packets on demand, and bring them to church - or you can pick them up at her house. Contact her at [ellie@thehandlemans.org](mailto:ellie@thehandlemans.org) OR text or call (781)985-2659. Postcards need to be mailed by mid-October.

IN ADDITION, for determined and devoted souls, there is a UU the Vote phone bank every Tuesday from 7-9 p.m. through Oct. 29. There's a Zoom call to get all the instructions and support you need - then some time for making calls, then a brief re-gathering to discuss. You can stay on the Zoom call while making calls, so you won't feel (or be) alone. AND - Ellie will be on

the support team for every phone bank, so if you come you can count on seeing at least one familiar face. To register for a phone bank, go to <https://sidewithlove.org/>, scroll down to events, then keep scrolling until you get to an event entitled "UU the Vote 2024 Weekly Phonebank." Ellie says it's a lot more fun than it sounds like, and she'd love to see you there!

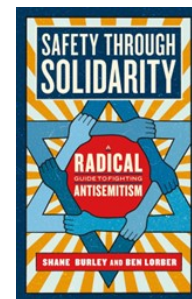
**October Special Plate Collection: Hingham Food Pantry**— Given the increase in food insecurity, we have decided to name the Hingham Food Pantry as our special plate recipient for the month of October. We think this is an important way to serve our Hingham neighbors in need. Donations can be made online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Hingham Food Pantry. The special plate during a Sunday service will be announced in a weekly Constant Contact.

In addition to this month's special "Birthday Kt" collection, we also collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry each week in the Meeting House and at 14 Main; there is a basket in the vestibule for donations. Currently, the following items are especially needed for the pantry: Pasta Sauce, Mac & Cheese, Granola Bars, Canned Tuna, Cookies, Minute Rice, Noodle or Potato Side dishes, and Canned Vegetables.

**Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop In Book Group meeting on October 20 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom** — All are welcome to join us as we discuss *The Black Box: Writing the Race* by Henry Louis Gates, Jr. Professor Gates based this book on his lectures in his Introduction to African American Studies course at Harvard. He writes, "Black people have actually been arguing with one another about what it means to be Black since they began to publish their thoughts and feelings in the latter quarter of the eighteen century....there never has been one way to be Black; the African Americans are as varied and as complex in their political and religious beliefs." This book explores the thoughts and writings of many of these writers. Patti Smith will facilitate our discussion. Here is the Zoom link for the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82584819266?pwd=y3JmzfA6OveyZSxO3DvqbygTtahDZV.1>.

**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@oldship.org), Keeper of the List.

**Author Talk - Safety through Solidarity. A Radical Guide to Fighting Antisemitism.** As Old Ship holds teach-ins on the Middle East through October, we must also address the intersectionality of struggles against oppression. **Unitarian Universalists for Justice in the Middle East** is hosting this **Zoom conference** with authors Shane Burley and Ben Lorber, who explain how marginalized groups' liberation is collective, and how to build true solidarity with neighbors. Conference is on October 9, 7:30-9 PM. RSVP required.



**Old Ship Merrie Market  
Saturday, December 14th**

Hard to believe it, but Merrie Market is less than 3 months away! We are excited to continue this annual tradition of merriment and fundraising at The Hingham Community Center. Many hands will make light work as we get closer to the event.

For now, please save the date and start gathering your “treasures” for the Treasures Table. We are seeking new or gently used decorative or holiday items in excellent condition.

If you have any questions or ideas, please contact co-chairs: **Lisa**

**Patterson** at [pattersonlisa66@gmail.com](mailto:pattersonlisa66@gmail.com) and/or 617-529-1192 or **Carol Valentine** at [cvbostonma@aol.com](mailto:cvbostonma@aol.com) and/or 617-771-3383. If you want to make your “Treasures” donations early, you can drop your items off anytime during office hours at 14 Main Street. We are able to pick up items from your home with advance notice.

Merrie Market is an easy and fun way to support our beloved Old Ship 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!



## Book Talk and Arts Walk at Old Ship Sunday, October 20 at 4:30 P.M.

On Sunday, October 20, Hingham will hold its annual Arts Walk, featuring artists, authors and musicians in shops and galleries throughout Hingham Square. Old Ship Meeting House will be open from noon to 4 for tours, and at 4:30 pm, Friends of Old Ship will sponsor a special Book Talk, free and open to the public. Best-selling author and UU Julia Park Tracey will discuss ***Silence: a Novel***, set in early Puritan times and based on the life of her great grandmother (x7), Silence Marsh Greenleaf. Much of the action takes place in our Meeting House, and readers will recognize landmarks in Cohasset, Hull and Hingham for the setting. Set 20 years after the witch trials, it gets into themes of women’s rage, grief and silencing, all through the lens of the Puritan beliefs of the time - it’s a quick and satisfying read. For info about the book and author, go to <https://sibyllinepress.com/witch-trials/>. Julia is a UU in Grass Valley, CA - let’s give her a warm Old Ship welcome!!



## 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

- **Finance Committee Meeting** - Thursday, September 26, 7:00 P.M., Zoom [Click here for the zoom link](#)
- **Community Space Team** - Tuesday, October 1, 7:00 P.M. Zoom
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, October 3, 7:00 p.m. Zoom/Parlor; [Click here for the zoom link](#) The agenda will be sent out next week

## Printer Cartridge Collection

Please bring your used printer cartridges to 14 Main St and help raise funds for our office supplies. In 2023, 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!



## Scam Emails

Unfortunately, another scam email went out over the weekend. When a scam email is received, please Do Not Respond!

**Do not respond to such emails!**  
**Delete and mark them as spam!**

Reverend Carie would never ask for a favor requiring you to spend your money on gift cards or anything else! The Board and I find it very upsetting that people prey on generous folks like you.



Happy Fall from your  
friends at Old Ship  
Church!

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