



first parish, hingham  
**old ship church**  
unitarian universalist

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## March 2025 Monthly Newsletter

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***Deadline for April's newsletter: Tuesday, March 18, 2025***

**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!](#)

**March Newsletter**  
**Monthly theme:**  
***Living Love Through the Practice of Trust***



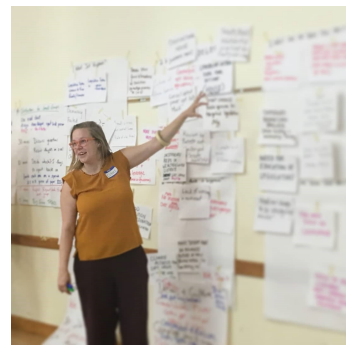
### SUNDAY SERVICES

**March 2 Living our UU Values in Action**  
**Claire Karl B. W. Muller, Pulpit Guest**

UU Mass Action is non-profit for UUs in Massachusetts to take action for justice at the state level. Claire Karl Miller, the Movement Building director at UU Mass Action will speak to this political moment, and how our work leads to more justice and relationship.

## **Claire Karl B.W. Muller (they), Pulpit Guest**

Claire Karl is a force of nature. They are a 5th generation Germanic settler to Eastern Massachusetts and identify as a white, middle-class, non-binary, small-fat, queer organizer. Their values are curiosity, compassion, truth and people power. They feel called to work with other white middle class folks on racial, economic and climate justice and joined the team at UU Mass Action in 2020.



They have organized at the local, state and federal level on climate and environmental justice since 2007, winning victories to stop pipelines, transition coal fired power plants to solar, and build community. Claire Karl is coordinator of the statewide climate justice coalition Mass Power Forward, which they co-founded in 2015, as well as the UU Mass Action staff lead for Indigenous Solidarity.

## **March 9 Trust the Power of Pause**

### **Rev. Carie Johnsen**

In this week's service we will engage in a spiritual pause to settle into restorative practices of silence, music, meditation, breath work, and contemplation.

## **March 16 The Humanizing Effect**

### **Rev. Carie Johnsen**

As Unitarian Universalist we celebrate *Love as the power that holds us together. We declare that every person is inherently worthy and has the right to flourish with dignity, love and compassion.* Yes! And, living with human contradictions in these unprecedented times challenges the best of us. How shall we navigate the social spaces that invite us to respond with practices of demonization and glorification? How will we engage practices of humanization – the spiritual discipline of Love – with ALL of humanity? (*Italics from UUA Shared value - Equity*)

## **March 23 Lessons from Mycelium Mushroom**

### **Rev. Carie Johnsen**

Drawing on a reflection by Adaku Utah, we will explore trust, interconnectedness, and resilience. Utah writes, *It takes courage to bring our trust forward and invite another person to meet us there. This sometimes sure, often shaky, surrender is an opportunity to discover something deeper than the confines of our individual experience.*

## **March 30 Communities of Resistance and Resilience**

### **Rev. Laura Randell, Pulpit Guest**

Authoritarian regimes depend on making people feel alone and powerless. The truth is that we have incredible collective power through communities of resistance, resilience, and mutual aid. Join us as we welcome the Rev. Laura Randall from the UU Service Committee. She will share stories from UUSC grassroots partners who are showing us how to survive, and thrive, in turbulent times.

### **Rev. Laura Randell, Pulpit Guest**

As the Director for Congregation Relations at UUSC, the Reverend Laura Randall (she/her/hers) facilitates

partnerships to strengthen the impact of the UU Service Committee and the social justice reach of UU communities. Prior to joining UUSC, Laura's ministry included serving as the Legacy Campaign Director for the Unitarian Universalist Association and hospice chaplaincy. She lives in Medford, Massachusetts with her spouse and their two dogs.



[Best Of All Possible Worlds](#) 2018 Saul Melman, [Decordova Sculpture Park and Museum](#)

Photo Credit: Carie Johnsen

## EVERYDAY ORDINARY THEOLOGIES

From the desk of Rev. Carie

Recently, in a series of deep theological conversations with a friend, I was asked, "What or who do you serve?" It is not a new question. I'm sure many of you have encountered a similar query yourself. As we know, when thinking about God, or no God, with someone who embraces a theological framework with a God of Creation, the notion of disavowing a supernatural being, can be perplexing.

The truth is I value spiritual explorations outside the theological bubble of Unitarian Universalism. I love sinking into rich conversations about God with people who are passionate about their belief. Their conviction becomes an invitation to reflect more thoughtfully about my own mystical humanist experiences. It is an opportunity for personal examination and human connection across theologies that sustain and guide us. It is also true that encountering diverse beliefs that contradict my own can be a bit uncomfortable. In staying present, I intentionally and consciously hold space that allows for spiritual growth in a circle of mutuality. In staying present, I keep myself from falling into the traps of Unitarian Universalist fundamentalism.

In my experiences as chaplain at Taunton State Hospital, I often encountered people with belief systems that hospital staff found disturbing or counter to clinical care. It was not unusual to receive a request for spiritual consultation based on the assumption and expectation that I would reorient patients toward dominant theologies, i.e., belief in Christian God. Instead, I educated staff on the diversity of spiritual expressions and experiences that help people to make sense of living and dying and everything in between. Rather than take away, diminish or judge another person's beliefs, I would ask how personal belief

help in times of suffering, affirm life in times of joy, and inspire goodness?

My friends, who or what do you serve? What sustains you in times of chaos and conflict? What offers you comfort during times of pain and suffering? What affirms you in times of joy and gladness? Where do you turn in times of grief? What inspires you to stay in the fray, repair the breach, and strive toward right living, right relationship? What do you trust to be there regardless, day in, day out?

This month, we explore Love through the practice of TRUST. I am looking forward to the journey. I encourage you to begin the exploration as you move through your days. Walk with the questions offered. Engage creative expressions – write, paint, craft, movement. Bring the questions to group conversation. Invite someone to coffee for a deeper theological reflection. Then come to Sunday service for a communal experiences and expressions of TRUST in an unpredictable world.

With Love at the Center,  
Rev. Carie Johnsen  
[RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org](mailto:RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org)  
Office phone 781-749-1679  
Cell Phone 508-221-5295  
Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

## March Board of Trustees Update

### Minister's Contract

We are delighted to announce that Rev. Carie will remain our Minister through (at least) July, 2028! A new three year Ministerial Agreement, effective August 1, will add church staff supervision to Rev Carie's duties. The new agreement also includes a provision allowing Rev. Carie to accept the call to be our settled minister should the congregation elect to call prior to August, 2028.



### Special Meeting Vote Results

On February 16, voting members unanimously approved both Articles relating to the funding of the lease at 14 Main St. The new lease on this property will now extend through September, 2026.

### February Business Meeting

The Board met for a monthly business meeting on Feb. 6th. Below are items of note not listed elsewhere in the newsletter:

**Board covenant reconsideration** – The Board voted to adopt a revised Board Covenant which will guide Board interactions. The new covenant reads as follows:

*Inspired by our UU values and the Old Ship Covenant, we covenant to:*

- Act with progress in mind and with the best interests of Old Ship at heart
- Voice our opinions while valuing and encouraging dissenting opinions, yet always maintain a united voice when expressing Board decisions
- Maintain a sense of reverence and a sense of fun at meetings



- Acknowledge issues of personal conflict related to Board business at Board meetings and seek to facilitate resolution
- Assume the best possible motives on the part of all participants
- Act in the spirit of love and in “right relationship” with everyone

**Green Sanctuary Team** - Guest Carol Valentine shared that a group of parishioners are interested in Old Ship joining the Green Sanctuary 2030 initiative. The Board approved the \$100 fee is required for training.

**Building Committee Report** - Following an update by Vice President Janice McPhillips, the Board approved an expenditure of \$1500 for the repair of the shed next to the Meeting House. The shed was damaged when a tree fell on it during a storm last year. The Board also approved a proposal by Ron Pollara to pursue a grant from Sacred Places that requires a \$500 application fee. The potential grant of \$170,000 is awarded in the fall. Another grant will be applied for from the state for \$70,000 but there is no fee. Another application to the Hingham CPC fund due in the fall.

**Worship and Music Committee** - Liaison Karen Churchill reported that Jessie Flaherty is the new chair and the Worship committee is growing.

**Website Update** - Liaison Janice McPhillips gave a report on the Old Ship new website which was close to being ready to launch. Note: Since the BOT meeting, the website has gone live at [www.oldshipchurch.org](http://www.oldshipchurch.org).

**Old Ship Gift Policy** - Clerk Elaine Cusker spoke about the need to determine a gift policy in light of the generous donation as Diana Gay’s legacy gift. Elaine will contact Jack Gomez to identify how to acknowledge the gift to the family.

**UUAGA Delegates** - President Trish McAleer reminded folks that the UUA General Assembly is taking place in Baltimore, June 18-22, 2025. Trish will put out a call in the newsletter for any interested in being a delegate.

**Stewardship Campaign** - As last year’s Stewardship Committee Current team is not able to continue for another year, a new team must be identified. The Board agreed to make this a priority for February.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions by emailing us at [President@oldshipchurch.com](mailto:President@oldshipchurch.com)

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

**Old Ship Pot-Luck Dinner:**

**March 1st at 5:30 P.M. in Cohasset**

Please come to our first potluck dinner of the year on Saturday, March 1st at 5:30 pm, at Nina Wellford's home in Cohasset. Bring your favorite item to share



and please bring an index card with the ingredients so everyone knows what's in it. In the true spirit of a potluck event, we will not be assigning categories of items based on your last name so if all of you bring dessert, that's what will be for dinner! We will provide nonalcoholic beverages and in keeping with our Alcohol Policy adopted in 2018, this will be an alcohol-free event. Please park on the circular drive, if possible, or on the same side of the street as the house/sidewalk. For more information or to RSVP by February 28 please reach out to Janice ([jbbmcpPhillips@gmail.com](mailto:jbbmcpPhillips@gmail.com)) or Nina ([ninawellford@gmail.com](mailto:ninawellford@gmail.com)). See you soon!

**Attention Families!**  
**Join us for Children's Religious Education programming on March 2nd**



Our RE programming meets the first and third Sundays with the final Sunday remaining our multi-generational Social Justice project day. Please have your kids join us next Sunday (March 2nd) for children RE class. The kids will start in the meeting house and then go down the street with RE teachers Addy and Judi. For more information please email Trish McAleer [president@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:president@oldshipchurch.org).

The final Sunday (March 30th) will remain our multi-generational Social Justice project day. On March 30th, all are welcome to join us to make and pack 80+ individual bagged lunches for Father Bill's/Mainspring Quincy Center, in support of people experiencing homelessness. For more information on Social Justice Sunday please contact Maureen Butler at [butlermcginnis18@gmail.com](mailto:butlermcginnis18@gmail.com).

**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

Dear Old Ship,

As you are likely aware, February is Black History Month. While it's important to celebrate and uplift black history all year round, this is always a great time to remind ourselves that much of the history we've learned isn't fully inclusive. It's our job to learn more and widen our perspective. This history includes music, too, of course. Several years ago I got the chance to visit the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, DC. If you have the chance to visit, please do; I found it to be memorable and moving. A large part of the upper floors is devoted to African American music. [Here is an article](#) that was published by the NMSSHC for Black Music Month, which is in June. I enjoyed this quick and informative read -- I hope you do too!

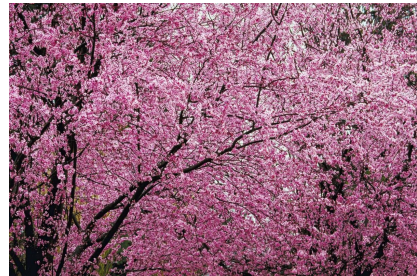


Musically,  
Christopher

## WISDOM OF THE POETS

On the old plum tree,  
one blossom by one blossom,  
the spring thaw is born.

-Ransetsu



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

## Community Space Team (CST) March Update

February was another busy month for CST. We completed revision of the PH floor plans in early February to reflect input from the congregation, and believe we achieved an efficient use of space that will meet our needs. The kitchen is larger and will accommodate an island; there is a large pass-through window between the kitchen and Fellowship Hall; and there are multiple spaces that can be used for a small, or expanded, RE program.



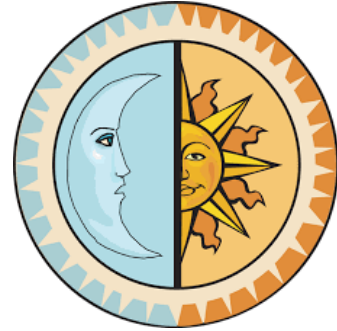
We are very focused on getting a cost estimate just as soon as possible. The architect will coordinate soil testing and test pits to make sure soils are suitable for the foundation location. We are awaiting final Mass. Historic Commission (MHC) endorsement of our protocol for discovery of human remains and artifacts, so that testing will occur in the approved manner. We met with PAL, Inc., our archaeological consultant, and the architect to troubleshoot the protocol and now expect a quick turnaround from MHC.

Finally, thanks to Ron Pollara and a great backup team, an application was completed for a grant from the Sacred Spaces Program administered by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The grant will cover a significant portion of a new combined heating system, water connection and handicap access for the Meeting House and new Parish House. Thank you Ron for leading this effort!

The Community Space Team

Stuart Patterson, Dennis Hogan, Ron Pollara, Elaine Gomez and Laura Harbottle

**Spring (Vernal) Equinox Poetry Circle**  
**Thursday, March 20th at 7:00 P.M.**  
**14 Main Street**



Spring begins officially this year on March 20<sup>th</sup> at 5:02 AM EDT. All are invited to come (and bring a favorite poem to share) to a Crossing Time Poetry Circle at 14 Main at 7:PM

Here is an excerpt from Rachel Carson's book *Silent Spring*:

"There is something infinitely healing in the repeated refrains of nature - the assurance that dawn comes after night, and spring after winter."

Come with or without a poem. Let us contemplate this mystery and draw strength from one another.

Questions: [elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com)

**Trans Parent and Caregiver**  
**Support Group**  
**Thursday, March 13th at 6:30 P.M.**  
**14 Main Street, Hingham**



Gather with others who share your experience of being a transgender parent or caregiver. Come join us as we tell our stories in a safe and supportive environment.



*Life Learning*  
*at Old Ship*  
2024 - 2025



**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!** – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, March 4th 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. 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, February 27th**

**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, March 23rd.** Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and a Zoom, link.

### **Fellowship Hour & Snacks**

Fellowship Hour will be held at 14 Main Street. Last names beginning **I - P** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, March 2nd.** 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.



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

Our Next Meeting is **Saturday, April 5, at 9 a.m.** on Zoom. All are welcome! Here is the link to the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89786941158?>



## March is a Busy Month for Our Commitment to Anti-Racism Work at Old Ship —

First, we will be showing the film, ***Who We Are***, on **Saturday, March 8, at 11 a.m. at the Shipyard Theaters**. This will be a free community event; we are co-sponsoring the film with the Hingham Unity Council. This documentary film examines our national history of racism. It is a compelling film and we are grateful for the support of the Shipyard Theater in donating the space and staff to share it with the community.



**SATURDAY  
MARCH 8  
11AM**

**PATRIOT  
CINEMAS AT  
HINGHAM  
SHIPYARD**

FREE  
ADMISSION

JEFFERY ROBINSON'S  
**WHO  
WE  
ARE**

**A CHRONICLE OF RACISM IN AMERICA**  
A FILM BY EMILY KUNSTLER & SARAH KUNSTLER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY

 first parish, hingham  
old ship church  
unitarian universalist

 huc  
hingham unity council

Second, on March 16, after church at 14 Main, we will be showing the video of the lecture from the Hingham Historical Society on slavery in Hingham. This lecture led to several of us learning that our Old Ship Minister Ebenezer Gay had enslaved people. Even if you saw the lecture when it was given, you might find it useful to see it a second time.

Third, members of the SJC have researched the history of enslaved and native people at Old Ship, including the history of our early ministers who enslaved people. Although we may discover more information in the future, we will be releasing the report of our research through the weekly email on March 18. We have scheduled an opportunity to react and discuss the report after church on Sunday, March 23.

We look forward to sharing these events with the congregation.

**All Church Read and Discussion:** *Authentic Selves: Celebrating Trans and Nonbinary People and Their Families* — This important and interesting book has been selected by the UUA as a Common Read for Congregations during this church year. The SJC invites everyone to read the book and attend an in-person or Zoom discussion in June as part of Pride Month. Rev. Carie also will

be discussing the book in one of her sermons or reflections that same month. The book is available from bookstores, including online ones. However, if we purchase books through the UUA Bookstore, we can get a discount of either 10 or 20%, depending upon how many books we order. The cost of the book without a discount is \$22.00. If you would like to be part of an Old Ship order, let Davalene Cooper know by email at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) by March 21. She will order the books and let you know the final cost. You may learn more about the book at [inSpirit: UUA Bookstore and Gift Shop: Authentic Selves](#).

### **March Special Plate/Outreach Collection: UU Mass Action —**

UU Mass Action was founded in 2006, and is the original state-wide UU organizing and advocacy group in the US. Its mission is to organize and mobilize the 20,000 Unitarian Universalists and 142 congregations in Massachusetts to confront oppression. All of this work is in partnership with larger campaigns and coalitions. UU Mass Action selects its pathways to justice by identifying the priorities in which congregations are engaged, taking part in coalition partners' shared priorities, assessing legislative momentum, and identifying who are the most vulnerable people in the Commonwealth.

Donations can be made as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House on Sunday, March 2, or at anytime throughout the month through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: UU Mass Action. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our January outreach collection for the UU Urban Ministry's Renewal House. We sent them a donation of \$1349.60. Thanks for supporting this important expression of our UU values!

**UU Mass Action Advocacy Day —** Upset about current affairs? Wish there were something you could do? There IS! Join Ellie Handleman and lots of other UUs for Mass Advocacy Day on April 8. This takes a bit of time, but UU Mass Action does ALL the leg work. They gather all the information we need and deliver it clearly, so that we can be prepared to meet, via Zoom (you *don't* have to travel into Boston), with state senators and state representatives to advocate for legislation on topics like Climate and Environmental Justice, Indigenous Justice, Economic and Housing Justice, Decarceration and End Solitary Confinement, and Immigrant Justice. Catch Ellie to discuss at coffee hour, or email ([ellie@thehandlemans.org](mailto:ellie@thehandlemans.org)) or call (781-985-9593) her, she'd love to answer your questions.

**Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop In Book Group next meeting on March 16 at 7:00 p.m. on Zoom —** We will be discussing *Stories from the Shadows: Reflections of a Street Doctor* by Dr. Jim O'Connell. This book contains Dr. O'Connell's collection of stories from his more than 30 years of caring for homeless persons in Boston. It is a beautiful book! Patti Smith will lead the discussion. Here is the Zoom link for the book group discussion: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/81315204148?pwd=8WYX39hSuqdNFQAp6cJ3H9P3wZQbca.1>

**Hingham Food Pantry —** This month, the food pantry is in need of the following items: cookies, healthy cold cereal, minute rice, two pound bags of sugar, granola bars, decaf ground coffee, and pasta sauce. Items may be donated each week during Sunday services at the Meeting House or dropped off anytime the office is open at 14 Main Street. There also are drop off boxes for the food pantry at Stop & Shop (near the Beal Street Entrance/Exit), at Jack



Conway and at Coldwell Banker. Thanks to everyone who supports our neighbors experiencing food insecurity.

**UU Urban Ministry News** — Community Conversations: Revolution of Historical Examination, on Thursday, March 6, from 6-7 p.m. on Zoom. (link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82902440676>). Join Aabid Allibhai, Mary Snyder, and Dr. Michael Curry, Collin Knight, and Reggie Walker for a discussion of why uncovering, examining, and understanding Black and Brown history matters in 2025.

## Sunday Flowers Donor

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? **April 27 & May 4 are 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).



## Valentine's Day Open House

On Valentine's Day a number of Old Shipper with songs in their hearts gathered at the Parish House for sweets and singing. A star may have been born...



## 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 - Sunday, March 2, 8:30 AM**, 14 Main Conference Room/Zoom
- **Choir Rehearsal - Sunday, March 2, 9:30 AM**, Meeting House
- **Worship and Music - Sunday, March 2, 12:15 P.M** 14 Main St Conference Room
- **Board of Trustees - Thursday, March 6, 6:30 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 2024, 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 and Texts

Scammers count on the fact you are distracted. Many scams are started with a text or an email, asking you to follow a link they sent you. **DO NOT CLICK on that link!** You may be giving a scammer access to your phone/computer and all the information stored. Do NOT respond or click on any links sent to you through a scam email or text. They are trying to grab data or install malware.



**Always remember that Rev Carie would never ask you to purchase gift cards!  
Do not respond to such emails! Delete and mark them as spam!**



*Happy St. Patrick's Day from your friends at Old Ship Church!*



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