



first parish, hingham
old ship church
unitarian universalist

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www.oldshipchurch.org

June 2025 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for July's newsletter: Tuesday, June 10, 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!](#)

June Newsletter

Monthly theme:

Living Love Through the Practice of Freedom

The Practice of

Freedom



Sunday, June 1st

An Old Ship Love Story

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Pastoral Care Team

In this service we will honor the nine nonagenarians in our community. Come listen to their stories and reflections about life at Old Ship through the decades. Fellowship hour will include a generous offering their favorite cookies.

Sunday, June 8th

Life, Love and Pride

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Transgender Caregiver Support Group

Celebrating Pride Month at Old Ship. Gathered to celebrate life and love and all that is holy. Gathered to affirm our LGBTQIA siblings. Gathered in commitment to advocacy and action. Following the service, we encourage you

to stop by the information table to visit with one of the members of the Transgender Caregiver Support Group.

Sunday, June 15th
Flower Communion
Rev. Carie Johnsen

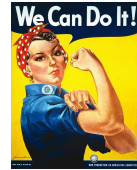
This traditional Unitarian Universalist service will bring to close the church year and celebrate the children's religious exploration program. Please bring a flower to add to the community bouquets.

SUMMER SERVICES begin June 22nd

Services organized by Karen Churchill with various Old Ship members and community participants leading services.
Please join us at 10:30 for service and fellowship.

Sunday, May 25 Service

During this past Sunday's service, we spoke of Rosie the Riveter. Because there were technical difficulties, please watch the video by [clicking here](#).



Summer Services will be beginning
June 22nd!

Services start at 10:30 a.m. (except our first service) and will be in person in the Meeting house as well as on Zoom. Each service is hosted by the Worship and Music Committee and a guest speaker. The Zoom link is our usual [Sunday worship link](#).



Don't miss the opportunity to continue sharing, bonding and worshipping together all through the summer months. We have put together some interesting and thought provoking services so far but we need your help. There are speaker dates available and we need a few more volunteers to tell their story. Services are informal and this is a great way for your voice to be heard.

Contact Karen Churchill if you have any questions or would like to chat about volunteering. Phone 781-812-5518. Email: xplasticfishx@yahoo.com.

Here's what we have so far:

June 22 - Jesse - General Assembly Zoom Worship shown **at 11:00**

June 29 - TBD

July 6 - TBD

July 13 - Catherine Mayes Meditation in Motion

July 20 - Elizabeth Torrey Poetry Service

July 27 - Judi Madden & Barbara Prince Celebrate Native American Culture

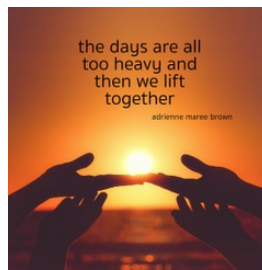
August 3 - Aggie Raeven leads a Quaker Service

August 10 - Clayton leads Bluegrass Group

August 17 - TBD

August 24 - TBD

August 31 - TBD



EVERYDAY ORDINARY THEOLOGIES

From the desk of Rev. Carie

As we bring to close our first year of shared ministry, I pause. I reflect. I breathe. I'm a bit tired. I'm a whole lot inspired. I am blessed. And, I say, "WOW, we did all that?"

If you haven't had a minute to pick up the annual report and take a look, I encourage you to do so. This single document conveys a picture of a thriving ministry. A community seeking to return to right relationship with each other and its past. A community getting all their ducks in a row, if you will. A community cultivating and nurturing new ways of being together in a post-Covid world. A community getting ready to step into what wants to emerge.

As you read this document, look for all the ways you have been engaged by the ministries of Old Ship. Pause. Reflect. Breathe. Feel your joy. Feel your exhaustion. Feel your frustrations. Be inspired. Recall the ways you have been touched by the people, the mission, the vision, our values, the struggles, the love, and the affirmation of life begetting life. Listen to what is calling you forward. Let that thing that enlivens you restore hope and inspire engagement. Imagine that thing that you love being in service to Old Ship, the community of Hingham, and the wider world.

I am your minister. It is my joy and a privilege to serve you. To serve First Parish in Hingham. To serve the values of Unitarian Universalism.

You are the community of Old Ship. This is your spiritual home. This is your faith community. This is your moral compass. It is your commitment of time, attention, and love that steers this vessel.

Together we will live into something new. Together, with *Love at the Center*, we humbly endeavor to nurture the best of ourselves, the best of Unitarian Universalism, the best of Old Ship, and the best of this world community.

We shape and inform reality as we go, may our efforts and our being together bring about more than we can imagine alone.

With Love at the Center,
Rev. Carie Johnsen
RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org

Office phone 781-749-1679

Cell Phone 508-221-5295

Office Hours: Thursday 1:00 - 4:00

June Board of Trustees Update

The Board met for our monthly business meeting on May 8. Then on May 18, the Board officiated the Parish Annual Meeting. Here are items of interest from these meetings not noted elsewhere in the newsletter.



CST Update - Trustee Dennis Hogan, the board liaison to the Community Space Team (CST), offered the following update: The cost estimate to build the new community building was nearly \$6 million. Architect David Torrey requested another cost estimate which came close to \$4 million. Two other builders believe the construction cost can be less. In order to further reduce costs, the landscaping plan has been reviewed and items that could be deferred for savings. Further considerations worked toward reducing cost – included - reduced size, defer elevated walkway was \$300,000, retaining wall is \$200,000, and other items. Site work can be cut by 50%. The Board will need to approve the proposed CST plan and then bring the plan to the congregation for a vote.

Stewardship Campaign - Meeting the campaign target is of concern, though pledges were still coming in. At time of meeting, the total was \$259,000 with 90 members pledging. Also, Board members agreed that the Board was overtaxed by running the Stewardship Campaign in addition to regular duties. Next year a new Stewardship team should be determined in the fall with the help of the Nominating Committee. Update: 95 pledges have now been received totaling \$266,063.

25/26 Budget -Treasurer Clayton Handleman gave the following report: Currently the Reserve surplus is \$233,000. We should retain \$100,000 in emergency funding leaving \$133,000 to cover the deficit in the draft budget. FY26 budget should be based on \$265,000 in pledges with shortfall coming from \$133,000 surplus leaving Old Ship with \$100,000 rainy day catastrophe fund. Essential to present to the congregation that we can fund this budget this year, but without expanded pledging the following year will have to reimagine how we provide ministry. The Board voted to approve the proposed Budget for \$470,252 with a \$70,049 deficit to be funded by reserved surplus.

Bylaw Change Articles - President Trish McAleer proposed several articles to be voted on at annual meeting that would require changes to the First Parish By-Laws; Committee on Ministry name change to Committee on Shared Ministry and reduce from 6 to 3 members, Trustees of Invested Funds (TIF) wishes to combine funds for efficiency though balances will continue to be recognized separately. RE Committees (Trish) change from 6 to three. The Board approved these articles be included and voted on at Annual Meeting.

Building & Grounds Report. Board Liaison Janice McPhillips stated the following; It is recommended that we changing the location of summer coffee at the Meeting House off the lawn area under the trees due to rough ground, tree roots, etc. Also we cannot store tables & chairs in the hall outside the composting toilet as this blocks the accessible entrance/exit. Sound board training will be this Sunday. Remainder electronic material from the old system needs to be discarded.

Gift Policy Proposal - Clerk Elaine Cusker suggested that all read the policy and consider these issues for further discussion at June's BOT meeting; Is the Endowment accurately represented? Will the relationship between the BOT

and TIF be accommodated by this draft? Are there any specific items that need consideration?

Membership Team - Board Liaison Elaine Cusker advised the following; Newcomer Welcoming coffees have been very successful with 3-4 new people attending each time for extensive conversation. At this time we may have 10 new members. May 18 is New Member Sunday with a ceremony for the new members and a small celebratory coffee followed by the Annual Meeting.

UUA General Assembly - Old Ship will have three delegates attending General Assembly in Baltimore next month; Karen Churchill, Ellie Handleman, and Corey Fitz-Marquez. Rev. Carie and BOT President Trish McAleer are also expected to attend.

Annual Meeting - On May 18, congregants gathered for the Annual Meeting of the Parish. All of the vote articles presented were approved including the slate of elected members for Church year 25/26 and changes to the bylaws (referenced above). Congregants also heard reports from the President of the Board of Trustees, The Nominating Committee, and the Community Space Team. In lieu of verbally offering her minister's report, Rev Carie asked congregants to ask questions and share insights.

As always, we welcome your comments and suggestions by emailing us at President@oldshipchurch.com

In fellowship,

**Trish McAleer, President,
For the Board of Trustees**

Attention Families!
**Join us for Children's Religious Education
programming on June 1st**



Our RE programming meets the first and third Sundays with the fourth Sunday remaining our multi-generational Social Justice project day. Please have your kids join us this month on Sunday, June 1st and 15th for children RE class. The kids will start in the meeting house and then go down the street with RE teachers Addy and Judi.

The fourth Sunday (June 22nd) will remain our multi-generational Social Justice project day. On June 22nd, 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.

Fellowship Hour & Snacks
Sunday, June 1st
Nonagenarian Service Celebration

Our June 1st service will celebrate the nine nonagenarians in our congregation. After the service, please join the



New Information: Ministerial Discretionary Fund



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 listed below.

Ministerial Discretionary Fund

Have you encountered unanticipated medical bills? Are you experiencing financial strain from loss of employment or rising energy and food costs? Rev. Carie has modest ministerial discretionary funds to assist people in times of financial stress. Please reach out to her directly and/or encourage others to call to request assistance.

[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

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

Musical Notes

Hello Old Ship,

It's hard to believe that another church year is coming to a close. And what a year it has been! I hope you have a wonderful summer that's full of enriching activities and maybe even a chance to hear some live music somewhere new. Many thanks to you all for your continued support of the music at Old Ship this year. Have a great summer and see you in the fall!

Musically,
Christopher



WISDOM OF THE POETS

OCEAN LOVE by Carolyn Chilton Casas

Let me not forget to notice
all the seasons of the ocean
with an awe-filled soul -
equally winter's pounding surf

and summer's gentle swells.
Every bay a changing alchemy
of colors - smoke, sapphire,
aqua, slate, and sky.
Let me not forget to search
September's waters
for the curved backs of whales,
their tails breaching toward the sun,
dorsal fins of dolphins undulating
smoothly in and out of waves
just beyond the breaks.
The ocean's briny smell
fills my lungs with longing
for a simpler life.
She urges me to set my cares aside,
float at peace in her salty arms.



Wishing everyone moments of deep peace, gratitude, and happiness this summer.

responses always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com

Welcome Newcomers!
Join Us for a
Monthly Newcomers Coffee
Sunday, June 15th

Are you new to our congregation and are wondering what we are all about? Do you have questions about Unitarian Universalism, Old Ship Church or just looking for a warm place to connect? We invite you to join us for our Monthly Newcomers Coffee Hour! It's a relaxed and friendly space where you can meet fellow newcomers, chat with long-time members, and learn more about the life and spirit of our community. Grab a cup of coffee (or tea!) and come as you are – we look forward to welcoming you! The Newcomer Coffee Hours will be held the third Sunday of each month. The Newcomer Coffee meet at our church offices (14 Main Street) following the service. This month, the date will be Sunday, June 15th. If you have any questions, please reach out to [Janet Asnes](#), [Elaine Cusker](#), [Diane Elliott](#), or our Minister, [Rev. Carie Johnsen](#)



Trans Parent and Caregiver Support Group
Thursday, June 12th 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. This group will continue to meet on the second Thursday of each month.

Please contact Bob

Caravana at bobcaravana@gmail.com.





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, June 3rd 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 1:00 p.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, June 12th

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, June 22nd.** Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and a Zoom, link.

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC) —

All Church Read and Discussion as Part of Pride

Month: *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 at Old Ship to read the book. We have scheduled two discussion sessions regarding this book as part of our LGBTQ+ Pride activities. There will be a Zoom discussion, facilitated by Rev. Carie, on Sunday, June 8, from 7-8:30 p.m. The link will be



posted the week before this session. There will be an in-person discussion session, led by Patti Smith, on Tuesday, June 10, from 1-2:30 p.m. in the Parlor at 14 Main. We invite everyone to attend one or both of these sessions. The book is available from bookstores, including online ones. You may learn more about the book at [inSpirit: UUA Bookstore and Gift Shop: Authentic Selves](#).

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. Current team members say it easy and fun and deeply meaningful to truly help others in such a direct and important way.

Right now one of the Thursday teams needs new cooks to make Shepherd's Pie (recipe provided). The next cooking date will be the 2nd Thursday in July (7/10), followed by the 2nd Thursday in October, January and April. You will get a recipe 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 starting at 5pm, or you may drop off your donation earlier the day of or the day before your team is providing the dinner, 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.



Hingham Food Pantry — As we end our church year, it would be great if we could increase our donations to the food pantry before we end our regular services in the Meeting House. Summer often finds the food pantry in need of additional donations from us as donations sometimes decline during the summer months. If possible, please donate from this list of specific foods: cookies, granola bars, minute rice and rice side dishes, crackers, pasta sauce, and 2 lb. bags of sugar. Items may be donated each week during Sunday services 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!

Palestine Children's Relief Fund (PCRF) Special Plate and Sermon — We are pleased to report that April's Special Plate collection for the PCRF collected \$2773.11, inclusive of a generous funds match from one of our congregants. PCRF provides humanitarian aid and free medical care to thousands of children in Gaza and the West Bank. At present, PCRF is supporting and providing aid to children in Gaza who have lost one or both parents in the war and children who have been injured themselves. You may learn more at [PCRF](#).

Our collection was accompanied by a visit from a representative from PCRF, Eynas Jarrar, a first generation Palestinian-American with family in the West

Bank, and a sermon by Rev. DL Helfer, co-author of the Unitarian Universalist Association's Action of Immediate Witness: Solidarity with Palestinians. This sermon concluded with a poem by the late Dr. Refaat Alareer, Palestinian writer, poet, translator, university professor and activist from Gaza, who was killed along with several family members in an air strike in December 2023:

If I must die

*If I must die,
you must live
to tell my story
to sell my things
to buy a piece of cloth
and some strings,
(make it white with a long tail)
so that a child, somewhere in Gaza
while looking heaven in the eye
awaiting his dad who left in a blaze—
and bid no one farewell
not even to his flesh
not even to himself—sees the kite, my kite you made, flying up above
and thinks for a moment an angel is there
bringing back love
If I must die
let it bring hope
let it be a tale*

Report on Slavery at Old Ship — Just a reminder in case you missed it! We released our report on the history of enslaved and native people at Old Ship, including the history of our early ministers who enslaved people on March 18. Although we may discover more information in the future, the current report has been posted on the Old Ship website at [Slavery-at-Old-Ship-Final-Report-3-18-2025.pdf](#).

From the UU Urban Ministry — The Revolutionary Walking Tours Schedule for 2025 has been released. Whether it be looking at revolutionary artists and the themes of their work, or the history of Roxbury and its legacy, our tours will examine and celebrate the revolutionary line that runs through all of them. So if you joined us for our Public Arts or History tours in the past, this year's offerings will be new to you as well! Also, we are excited to be offering a new tour of our historic Meetinghouse (First Church Roxbury). Historian Thomas Plant will be leading these tours of the church, and they are a great opportunity to see the restored building in a way you never have before. Check out the [Tours schedule](#) and join us!

Listening Circles

During the month of April, the Transitional Ministry Team facilitated four Listening Circles during which participants were asked to consider and reflect on questions pertaining to their relationship with Old Ship. All comments were anonymously recorded and compiled into the Team's report. [Click here to read and consider our findings.](#)



Join the Friendly Team of Meeting House Tour Guides!

As we fly towards summer, The Friends of Old Ship is ramping up our roster of Old Shippers who can show the Meeting House and explain a bit of our fascinating history to visitors from across the country. We provide the script and will gladly show you the ropes, plus you can join a more seasoned guide at first if you like. The Meeting House will be open for whomever drops in on Wednesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm in July and August, so we need coverage for about 27 days. Please let us know if you are interested - we will send you the schedule and arrange for a training. It is relaxing, fun, educational and inspirational - you meet the most interesting people, or have a quiet morning to read under the tree. Contact Nina at ninawellford@gmail.com or Bev at bbvernon39@gmail.com. Thanks!



Annual Plant Sale

We have happy news to share about the very successful spring Plant Sale that took place on Saturday May 17. We had over 400 plants for sale that came from Old Shipper's gardens with the bulk of the beautiful plants coming from Brenda Black and Ron Pollara's garden as well as from their friend Claudia who lives in Jamaica Plain and generously allows Brenda and Ron to dig plants each year. And to return the favor, the plants leftover after the Old Ship Plant Sale went back to Claudia and she donates them to a plant sale that benefits "Roslindale Green," her local green committee.



The "Mavens of Manure" went to Briggs Stables again this year and bagged up composted horse manure. Joan Wilson and several women from The Gathering created beautiful flower arranging "frogs" which were sold along with some beautiful annual hanging plants and potted collections created by Corey Fitz-Marquez. Our goal was to raise \$3,000 for Old Ship and we exceeded that, netting \$3,122. This is such a fun way for us to share the bounty and beauty of our gardens with each other and with the community each year. Thank you so much to all who helped in whatever capacity. With much appreciation, Janice McPhillips & Brenda Black



A Merrie Market Message

With 6 full months to go, we are preparing now for the big day. As you spring clean or downsize please set a box or two aside with items for the Treasures Table. With your contributions we will make this table a Treasure Trove for sure!

No item is too valuable.

Sending appreciation and thanks in advance.
For help or if you have questions please contact
Dave Petrie. 781-400-9434 / cdpetrie@aol.com



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

- **Pastoral Care Team** - Thursday, June 5, 1:30 p.m. Zoom/Parlor
- **Board of Trustees** - Thursday, June 12, 6:30 p.m. Zoom/Parlor [Click here for the zoom link](#) The agenda will be sent out next week

Office Closed

Starting on Tuesday, June 17th through June 30th, Lisa will be out of the office. She will return on Tuesday, July 1st at 9:00 AM. Summer Hours will begin on July 1st, and are Tuesdays and Thursdays 9:00 AM - 12:00 P.M. If you need assistance during this time, please reach out to [Trish McAteer](#)



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!



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