

## 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 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday in July (7/10), followed by the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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](mailto: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!