



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

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## September 2025 Monthly Newsletter

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***Deadline for October's newsletter: Tuesday, September 16, 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!](#)



*ThreadFlow Artists: Gera Lozano and Werc Alvarez Photo by Carie Johnsen Location: 50 Pleasant St, Pawtucket, RI.*

### **BRIDGING BELONGING** **September 2025**

**September 7<sup>th</sup>**

***Water Heal My Body, Water Heal my Soul***

Our annual Water Communion service is a time to reconnect after our summer respite, travels and adventures. This year we will gather at the well of generativity to bear witness to the resilience and power of community.

**\* PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING A VIAL OF WATER FROM YOUR SUMMER TRAVELS. \*\***

**September 14<sup>th</sup>**

## LOVE AT THE CENTER

### **Building Bridges**

Living our Unitarian Universalist values calls us to witness and engage what is unfolding before us. In this monthly series, *Love at the Center*, we will keep asking, "What does it mean to be the people of Love who humanize each other? What does it mean to be the people of Love who build the world we long to inhabit?"

### **September 21<sup>st</sup>**

#### **Poetry, Pause, and Praise**

Centering the voices of our favorite poets, we will join together for an embodied worship experience bridging the gap between longing and belonging. In this service, Rev Carie and Christopher are excited to welcome their colleague, singing chaplain, Jenny McQueen to engage all of us in the practice of singing.

### **September 28<sup>th</sup>**

#### **Reflections on GA**

Old Ship delegates and members will reflect on their experiences at General Assembly in Baltimore this past June. Join us to hear what is happening across congregations and at the UUA.



*ThreadFlow Artists:* Gera Lozano and Werc Alvarez Photo by Carie Johnsen Location: 50 Pleasant St, Pawtucket, RI.

*The artists created the design for Threadflow in response to the City's call for a mural that expressed "community, diversity and/or the vitality that has defined downtown Pawtucket." The artists created images that reference the city's diversity, its industrial past in producing cotton yarn, and symbols of spirituality. There are connections to cotton and the land, birds of migration and mill history, and the mirrored shapes of arrows as a tribute to early native and indigenous peoples. The 200 x 15 ft. mural depicts realistically rendered images against a colorful patterned background producing a bold, lively effect that blends the past with the present. ~ [Pawtucket Public Art](#)*

### **Everyday Ordinary Theologies...**

This past weekend I brought the rhythms of summer to a close bridging past with present, bridging personal with global, bridging ancestry with ministry, bridging spiritual with practice.

This year the annual [Global Matriarch's Gathering](#) hosted by Wicuhkemtultine (Kinship community) at the [Land Peace Foundation](#), in Monroe, ME wove a tapestry of mythologies and folklore from the Celtic, Nordic, Māori, Filipino, Wabanaki, and many others. In a morning spiral dance with 200 women, we honored matriarchal cultures and empowered our sisters to claiming the fire within and shape the world we long to inhabit. In community of amazing storytellers, wisdom teachers, spiritual elders, and emerging leaders, we began a practice of weaving ourselves back into the collective story and evolving mythology.

In a couple of weeks, we gather in community to bridge the space between summer activity and a new church year. With the theme of *bridging belonging*,

we will explore our individual and collective stories, as we bear witness to national and global realities. Over the summer we have known loss and grief. We have also known pain and suffering. AND we have witnessed people across this planet rise up to carry a mantle of sanity in a sea of chaos and destruction. Across generations since the dawn of humanity, we have risen rooted and strong and resilient and joyful and kind. ***We know, deep in our being, in our action and in our love, keeping our hearts open and arriving with caring hands, over and over again, shapes the world we long to inhabit.***

Our theme this September, *bridging belonging*, is both an invitation and a reminder. This is what we do. This is what it means to be Unitarian Universalist. Our faith calls us to gather around our human longing for connection, community, celebration, belonging, and grace. Our humanity calls us to invite conversation. Extend care. Take time to listen and witness. Cultivate compassion. Mentor leadership. Nurture diversity. Celebrate different ways of being. Open doors and create space for others to know we've been waiting for them. Live and Love boldly.

As we step into year two of this transitional ministry, I'm imagining practices of **disrupting church** as we know it to emboldened communities and **islands of sanity** to anchor an imbalanced world. These times call for bold action. What is on your mind? These times call for full participation – sharing gifts and talents. What do you bring? How can I help my community this year?

In the spirit of Wicuhkemtultine – Kinship community, *all generations have known dangerous and destructive times. All generations have known resilience. Humanity has always gathered in generative communities of care and compassion.*

*We are the seeds - the ancestors of the future.  
What will we plant, water, nurture, cultivate and leave  
in the soil of Life, Love and the Holy.*

So may it be,

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

## September Board of Trustees Update

### Summer Board Retreat

Following a July hiatus, the Board of Trustees gathered Saturday, August 9th, for our summer Board retreat. In a half day session facilitated by Rev Carie, Board members deepened connections with one another, gained perspectives on relational styles and considered how we can best work together as a group. Then using the UUA's "Meet the Moment" framework, we considered how we may take values based action in response to Old Ship challenges. The Board has identified four areas of focus for this year; *Creating Vibrant Community*: To have a vibrant church community, we must both tend to the spiritual needs of our existing community while actively welcoming new members. Is ours a church that visitors want to return to? How



do we get the word out to our larger community that Old Ship has something to offer?

*Leadership Development;* We have been challenged in recruiting church leadership on the Board and for committee chair positions. Our community must identify and support members ready to step into leadership positions. Also we must be mindful of how we can make doing church business more nurturing and spiritually fulfilling.

*Ensuring Fiscal Responsibility;* Though fiscal surpluses have overcome budget shortfalls in recent years, we recognize this solution is untenable. As a budget shortfall next year may result in impacts to programs and staffing, what can we do this year to prepare for this possibility?

*Stewardship of Our Buildings;* We face significant fiscal challenges with regard to our buildings. Our historic Meeting House needs long deferred maintenance and our Building & Grounds committee needs a chairperson. The increased costs of constructing a new Community Building has necessitated a revision on the plans approved this spring. (See a detailed update building project below.) The community must decide how to address our space needs within a framework of a realistic budget.

### **Parish House Project**

Our Community Space Team (CST) has been hard at work this summer. After the latest round of cost estimates from three builders and a cost estimator, the CST has concluded that the congregation will either have to raise its budget to build the current two-story building design or revise the plan as a one-story building that provides essential space but not all the space or functionality we had sought. A one-story design could provide more functional space than the 14 Main St. space, but would mean considerably less office, storage, and meeting space than the current two-story design. Based on the detailed estimates received on the current design, the CST believes that a one-story design could be built for the current \$2.5M budget, whereas the current two-story design budget would require \$3.2M.

As a result, the CST has asked our Architect David Torrey to do a directional schematic design for a one-story building to illustrate what the choice between the two options would entail. He expects to have an initial schematic design by early September that the CST will review. Once this design is vetted, the CST will forward it to the Board for their review. The Board will then convene the congregation to consider options and decide on whether to proceed with the smaller building at the current budget, fund the larger building (presumably by using the endowment and additional fundraising), or choose another path.

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

In fellowship,

**Trish McAleer, President, for the 25/26 Board of Trustees;**

**Janice McPhillips; Vice President, Clayton Handleman; Treasurer, Elaine Cusker; Clerk, Dennis Hogan, Cory Fitz-Marquez, Jen Lincoln; Trustees-at-Large.**

**Attention Families!**  
**Join us for Children's Religious Education**  
**programs on the first and third Sunday**

## Intergenerational Service on September 7th Classroom on September 21st



Welcome! We are excited to welcome our families with young children back to a new church year. Please remember to bring a vial of water from your summer travels to In-Gathering Sunday on September 7th. The young people will stay in the meeting house for this annual intergenerational service. The first religious exploration classroom is scheduled for September 21st. On this Sunday young people will start in the meeting house, join with congregation to light the chalice and hear a story then walk to down to 14 Main Street for RE classroom.

**Please note:** families with children of all ages are also welcome to stay in the meeting house for services. Rev. Carie plans simple actives to engage young people on the Sundays (2nd and 4th) when children's programming has not been scheduled.

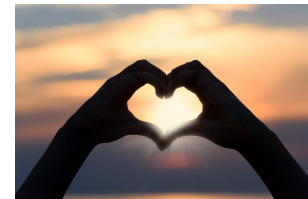
### Fellowship Hour & Snacks Sunday, September 7th

Fellowship Hour will be held at the Meeting House (weather permitting) Last names beginning **A - H** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, September 7th**. 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.



### 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



## WISDOM OF THE POETS

If spring is a time when relationships are born or renewed, then autumn is a time to deepen those relationships. It is important to carve out sacred time for what and who matter most to us. Is there something finished? And some new beginning on the way?"

Carl Sandburg

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



## Among Us

A Celebration of the Life of Carol Valentine will be held on Saturday, September 20, 2025 at 10:30 A.M. in the Meeting House. A reception will follow. Carol's full obituary and can be read [here](#).

We hold the MacMillan Family in our hearts after the recent passing of Alexander MacMillan. His memorial Service will be held on Saturday, October 11, 2025 at 11:00 A.M. in the Meeting House. Alexander's full obituary can be read [here](#).



## Welcome Newcomers!

### Join Us for a Monthly Newcomers Coffee Sunday, September 21st

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, September 21st. 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, September 18th 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.



## AUTUMNAL EQUINOX POETRY CIRCLE

**Monday evening, September 22nd**

**7 PM at 14 Main St Parlor**

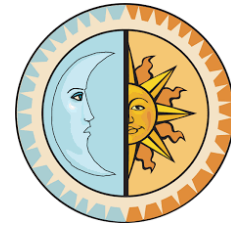
Autumn officially begins this year on Monday, September 22nd at 2:20 PM EST.

Since 1996, we have held poetry circles at Old Ship at the Spring and Fall Equinoxes, and at the Winter Solstice in December.

I invite you to bring a favorite Fall poem. or one that encouraged you during a difficult time, or a poem that makes you smile.

All are welcome with or without a poem as we honor the crossing from summer into fall. [Click here for zoom link.](#)

Questions? [elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com](mailto:elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com) or 781-749-0543



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



### Life Learning Offerings

*Our Life Learning Committee is working on the schedule of classes and groups for 2025-2026 calendar. It will be shared the end of September.*

[Please click here for the 2024-2025 schedule.](#)

**Ceilidh!** – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening, September 2nd 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](#).

### **Sacred Texts Meditation Group**

**Next gathering: Thursday, August 28th**

**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, September 28th**. Contact [Ralph Brown](#) or [Rich Elliott](#) for information and a Zoom, link.

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



**Social Justice Committee Meeting** — Everyone who is interested in invited to our next meeting, which is on Saturday, September 13, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87297676623?pwd=233HzvUwBj3fY12wHuJjQDLcvefsaf.1> Contact Davalene Cooper if you have any questions.

**Antiracism Drop in Book Group Meeting on September 21 at 7 p.m. on Zoom** — All are welcome to attend our discussion of *Ruin Their Crops on the Ground: The Politics of Food in the United States, from the Trail of Tears to School Lunch*, by Andrea Freeman. Freeman "draws on over fifteen years of research to argue that U.S. food law and policy have created and maintained racial and social inequality. . . She traces the long-standing alliance between the government and food industries that have produced gaping racial health disparities, and she shows how these practices continue to this day, through the marketing of unhealthy goods that target marginalized communities, causing diabetes, high blood pressure, and premature death." This book is an important contribution to our understanding of white supremacy culture and how widespread its influence is. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87637841227?pwd=LVBQQUtuRZIB83OZ5U9atbNmfgAHN.1>. Contact [Patti Smith](#) if you have any questions.

**Hingham Food Pantry** — We collect food for the Hingham Food Pantry each week in the Meeting House and at 14 Main. ***During the month of September, we invite Old Shippers to bring cookies, crackers, and canned soup.*** Of course, all food nonperishable food items are accepted. Donations also can be made at the Stop and Shop in Hingham.

**Join UU Mass Action on Labor Day in Boston** — Be Part of History and Join Boston's First Labor Day Parade! The Greater Boston Labor Council is making history with Boston's first-ever Labor Day Parade! YOU'RE invited to march with us! We'll follow a powerful route that honors the victories of the past and energizes the movement we're building today. This isn't just a parade, it's a statement, a celebration and a call to action. Location coming soon! [RSVP](#) to join the UU Mass Action Contingent!

**Save the Date: *Becoming Trustworthy White Allies* on Thursday, October 23, from 7-8 p.m. in Zoom.** — We have arranged for Melanie Morrison, a racial justice educator and UCC minister, to present information on her newest book, *Becoming Trustworthy White Allies* on Thursday, October 23, from 7-8 p.m. in Zoom. You may learn more about her work at [Melanie S. Morrison](#), including information about the book, which will be released by Duke University



Press on September 19. It is not necessary to read the book in advance of the presentation. This is our opportunity to learn more about being a trustworthy ally in our racial justice work. We intend this to be an opportunity to follow up on the racial justice work we did at Old Ship last year.

**From the UUA: Love is Not Silent** — On August 5, 2025, the UUA made this historic statement, on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#):

There is no justification for the starvation of children. Love is not silent in the face of genocide. There is no absolution for governmental or institutional complacency. We must take moral action to feed Gaza and stop the destruction of land, the poisoning of the soil, and the decimation of systems of care that support life in the region. Joining with religious voices across the globe, Unitarian Universalists again call for "the liberation of Palestine and an end to the apartheid... [We] call for an immediate permanent ceasefire, [delivery of] massive humanitarian aid, the release of all captives, and an end to genocide around the world." ([June 22, 2024 Action of Immediate Witness, "Solidarity with Palestinians"](#))

**Green Sanctuary** – UUA urges members to write letters by September 22nd to oppose rescinding the EPA's "endangerment finding," which is the basis for all federal climate action. A Climate Action Toolkit for messaging guidance -- including talking points and directions for submitting a public comment is at <https://sidewithlove.org/endangerment-finding>. If you could say one thing, UUA suggests this: "Trump and Zeldin's Climate Chaos Plan will make climate denial official U.S. policy, claiming climate change and the pollution that causes it pose no threat to public health or the environment. Their plan would let polluters get richer while we pay the price – with our health, our wallets, and our lives." Please write soon!

## SUNDAY FLOWERS DONOR

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? September 7, 14, 21 & 28 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).



## From the Transition Ministry Team

The Transition Ministry Team is looking forward to meeting in September to resume the process of listening to the congregation as we enter the second year of Rev. Carie's contract ministry. Gatherings and events will be planned to continue the conversations and sharing that began last year. Stay tuned for our updates!



## A Merrie Market Message

As of September 1st we are 104 days away from Merrie Market 2025. Donations for the treasures table are in full swing and there is still time and

room for your treasures. I am planning on an informal MM brain storm get together this month, date and place TBD. Hoping that all the Old Ship Elves will be busy soon in preparation for a fun and exciting market in December.

For help or if you have questions please contact Dave Petrie. 781-400-9434 / [cdpetrie@aol.com](mailto: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

- **Deacon's Meeting** - Wednesday, September 3, 6:00 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees** - Wednesday, September 10, 6:30 p.m. Zoom/Parlor  
[Click here for the zoom link](#) The agenda will be sent out next week

## Scam Emails and Texts

Scammers count on the fact you are distracted.

If a phone call seems weird or phishy, it probably is. Hang up immediately. An email went out supposedly from Reverend Caries asking for a request that requires confidentiality. Look at the email address. It is NOT Rev. Carie's email.

**Always remember that Rev Carie would never ask you to purchase gift cards or send her a directory!**



## 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!



**from your friends at  
Old Ship Church!**

First Parish, Old Ship Church | 14 Main Street | Hingham, MA 02043 US

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