



first parish, hingham
old ship church
unitarian universalist

14 Main Street
Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679

office@oldshipchurch.org
www.oldshipchurch.org

October 2025 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for November's newsletter: Tuesday, October 21, 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!](#)

BRIDGING BELONGING September 2025

**September 28th
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.



**Cultivating
Compassion**

October 2025

**October 5th
To Care Without Drowning
Rev. Carie Johnsen & Christopher Nicholson-Mann**

In opening words by the same title, Rev. Michelle Collins offers the invitation to

seek together the steady foundation from which true compassion flows. Come let us explore this possibility through the lens of Yom Kippur and Margaret J. Wheatley's vision to create Islands of Sanity.

October 12th

LOVE AT THE CENTER: Compassion at the Intersection of Justice

Rev. Carie Johnsen & Christopher Nicholson-Mann

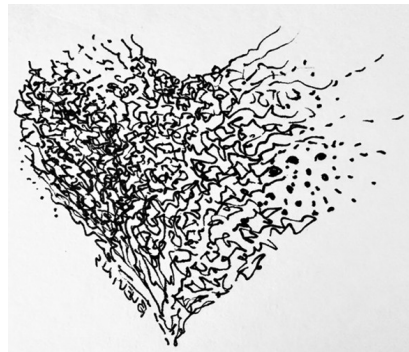
Join us this Sunday as we recognize Indigenous Peoples Day. Let us explore together the work that is ours to do as we gather once again in the "Puritan's House."

October 19th

Poetry, Pause, and Praise: Thirsty for Joy

Rev. Carie Johnsen & Jennie MulQueen

Centering the voices of our favorite writers, we come together for an embodied worship experience cultivating compassion with expressions of joy. In this service, Rev Carie and Jenny McQueen will inspire the gathered community to lift a JOYFUL NOISE.



Everyday Ordinary Theologies...

Oh, how I do love autumn. A cup of tea, a big sweater, a cozy blanket, a good book, a cat on my lap, and a pot of soup simmer on the stove. In my world this is self-compassion at its finest!

October. The perfect month to explore what it means to cultivate compassion for one's self, family, neighbor, stranger, and friend. I offer you this excerpt from the poem "Self-Compassion" by James Crew. You can read or listen to the full poem [HERE](#).

My friend and I snickered the first time
we heard the meditation teacher, a grown man,
call himself honey, with a hand placed
over his heart to illustrate how we too
might become more gentle with ourselves
and our runaway minds. It's been years
since we sat with legs twisted on cushions,
holding back our laughter, but today
I found myself crouched on the floor again,
not meditating exactly, just agreeing
to be still, saying honey to myself...

And this "Prayer for Cultivating Compassion for the World" from my colleague Rev. Michelle Collins.

Ground of Being, we witness a world on fire, literally and metaphorically. Headlines scream of cruelty and division. Children go hungry while others feast. The earth herself groans under the weight of our carelessness and our selfishness.

Some days the suffering feels too vast, the darkness too deep. We are tempted to close our hearts rather than let them break again and again. To choose cynicism over hope, numbness over feeling, despair over the vulnerable act of caring.

Yet here we gather, proof that love persists. In every city, on every continent, hearts like ours beat with stubborn compassion. Strangers comfort strangers. Neighbors feed neighbors. People choose justice when injustice would be easier.

Remind us that we are part of something larger than our individual capacity to heal. That every act of kindness creates ripples we'll never see. That the light of compassion, however small our flame, joins with countless others to push back the darkness.

May we trust that love is stronger than fear, that justice is more powerful than oppression, that ordinary people choosing extraordinary kindness can and will transform this world.

This month allow yourself to linger. Settle into the quiet. Select your favorite poem or poet and return often. Send me a copy. Find a good book. Consider a delicious novel to soothe the soul. Share with me the title. Enjoy the crisp air. Let your heart love what it loves.

Rest my friends. Resist fascism. Love what you Love.

Rev. Carie

RevCarie@OldShipChurch.org

Office phone 781-749-1679

Cell Phone 508-221-5295

October Board of Trustees Update

On Wednesday, September 10, the Board met for its monthly meeting. Below are some items to note;

Community Space Team: At the request of the Community Space Team (CST), Architect David Torrey is working on a directional schematic design for a one-story building for the purpose of illustrating the choice between building a one-story building or a two-story building. The CST believes that the former can be built for the current \$2.5M budget and that the latter would cost \$3.2M. The team will review the design with Torrey this month and present both designs and budgets to the Board by the BOT October meeting. The CST believes that 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 two-story



design. Both designs are directional but not final, useful for illustrating what the different budgets will purchase. The design should enable the congregation to 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 do something else.

Memorial Garden - Lorraine Varney came to speak about the Memorial Garden Committee. The Memorial Garden, next to the Meeting House, is intended as a resting place for ashes of members and dear Friends of Old Ship. The garden offers a granite path where engraved names, birth, death dates of members and friends are listed. Ashes may be scattered in the garden or interred. Interment of ashes currently costs \$400 with an additional fee for engraving. The Board voted unanimously that Lorraine be named the next chairperson of this committee.

By-laws Updates - Jack Gomez and Mike Dwyer attended on behalf of the Trustees of Invested Funds. At May's Annual Meeting the congregation approved changes to Article XI of the Bylaws regarding the management of the endowment. Effectively, two funds – the Endowment & Deacon funds, will now be managed as one, and a third fund, the Saniter Trust, have 30% intended for Meeting House and 70% for Social Justice purposes. Previously these have been managed separately and Trustees of Invested Funds noted that the latter was not performing as well and therefore merging them would be more productive. This will establish a common distribution formula of the Saniter funds proceeds. The Saniter Trust is approx. \$100,000. The language, as suggested by the Trustees of Invested Funds, was unanimously approved by the Board. The changes to Article XI, Sections 1 and 2 shall read as follows;

“Section 1. Definition. The endowment shall consist of all the current invested funds of the Parish except for (1) the Deacons' Fund and (2) other such funds entrusted by organizations to the Trustees of Invested Funds for their management.

Section 2. Purposes and Goals: The endowment shall be composed of no more than three (3) funds one fund for investment management purposes which, in turn, will be comprised of several sub-funds, each of which have a special purpose. The current sub-funds to accomplish the following purposes:

- a) The Building Reserve Fund consists of designated gifts and bequests restricted for the purpose of preserving and maintaining the buildings and grounds of the Meeting House.
- b) The Social Outreach Reserve Fund consisting of designated gifts and bequests restricted for the purpose of benefiting charitable and humanitarian causes not directly connected to the Parish.”

In addition, Mike Dwyer proposed a change in the language regarding the Deacon's responsibilities in Article VII, Section 3, in helping if needed to fill the pulpit. This section will now read: “Be responsible, in the event of possible vacancy in the office of Minister, for religious services, subject to approval by the Board of Trustees.” This change was also unanimously approved by the Board. Both of these changes will be effective 09/30/25.

Building and Grounds: Vice President Janice McPhillips, acting as Board liaison of this committee, gave the following report: Old Ship's grant application to the Fund for Sacred Places was not selected to move along in the funding process. We were encouraged to reapply for the grant next funding cycle in 4 years. Unfortunately, the funding cycle for the grant does not align well with the

possible construction of a new Parish House and replacing the existing heating system of the Meeting House. The boiler that heats the steam that heats the Meeting House was inspected in August with no issues noted. Our Sexton Mark Curran oiled the floors of the Meeting House, as is his usual practice for the summer. Mark has not completed the repairs to the shed that we voted on last year but plans to attend to these repairs this fall. **It was noted that this committee does not have a chairperson and that members are sorely needed. The Board strongly encourages members to please consider serving on this vital committee.**

Treasurer's report: Treasurer Clayton Handleman submitted a report which included the following: *Stewardship:* Pledge fulfillment for the 24-25 pledge campaign is \$26,322 at 99.9% of the \$267,689 pledged and exceeds the \$258,789 used in the fall budget by over \$8,500. For FY 25-26 the budget anticipates \$265,000. As of September 9th we have received pledges in excess of \$271,000. If last year is a proxy then we can expect more pledges and a high percentage of fulfillment. *Book keeper:* We have hired a bookkeeper named Peg Mullaney. Peg has run a small bookkeeping business for decades, and has done book keeping at another church for over a decade. Peg and Clayton worked together over the summer on tasks such as getting her access to the Payroll service. Peg is now up and running but there is still some learning to do about all our church systems and methods. *Finance Committee:* Will begin meeting every 1st Thursday of the month at 7:00pm starting in October. It was agreed that an end of the year report for FY '25 is needed this Fall to share with the congregation.

September South Shore UU Gathering: On Saturday, September 13, Board President Trish McAleer, Vice President Janice McPhillips and Rev. Carie attended a UUA sponsored gathering of local UU Board and Ministers hosted by UU First Parish Norwell. Together with UUs from Cohasset, Norwell, Scituate, Duxbury, Kingston, and Plymouth we discussed areas issues relating to membership, religious education, finances, governance and stewardship. We shared about how we are "meeting the moment" in responding to the challenges facing UUs today. The Old Ship attendees felt the gathering helpful in increasing cooperation and building support between us and our fellow UU congregations here on the south shore.

The Board welcomes your comments and suggestions by emailing us at President@oldshipchurch.com.

Trish McAleer, President

Sunday, September 14th Service is viewable on YouTube this week!

NEWS! We will be providing a link to the previous week's service for a 1-week time period so that anyone who missed the service can view it. The video will only be available for that one week. Please click [this link](#) for the Sunday, September 14, 2025 Service



Attention Families!

**Join us for Children's Religious Education
programs on the first and third Sunday
Intergenerational Services on October 12th &
26th**



This month, the children will be exploring the theme of cultivating compassion. On the first Sunday of the month (10/5) we will be discussing how even tiny acts of kindness can make a large difference. On the third Sunday (10/19) we will be discussing compassion's call to not single anyone out.

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

**Fellowship Hour & Snacks
Sunday, September 28th**

Fellowship Hour will be held at the Meeting House (weather permitting) Last names beginning **I - P** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, September 28th**. 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 its 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

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

It's great to see so many faces this September -- many familiar and some new ones, too! We have lots of exciting music planned this year and we invite you to join us in any way you can. Whether it's singing in the choir, participating in the pews or on zoom, we hope that the music at Old Ship helps us all connect and grow in community. If you'd like to sing with the choir, all you need is a love for music and a joy in singing. We always love having new voices. We hope to see (and hear) you there!

Musically,
Christopher



WISDOM OF THE POETS

YES

It could happen any time, tornado,
earthquake, Armageddon. It could happen
Or sunshine, love, salvation.
It could, you know. that's why we wake
and look out - no guarantees in this life.
but some bonuses, like morning,
like right now,
like noon,
like evening.

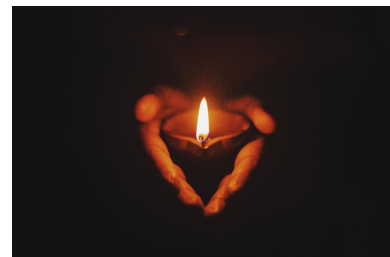
"Yes" from Passwords by poet William Stafford

responses always welcome: elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com



Among Us

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, October 19th

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, October 19th. 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, October 16th 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 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, October 7th 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, September 25th

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 Council Meeting — Everyone who is interested in invited to our next meeting, which is on Saturday, October 25, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89615305030?pwd=ZaGjGqWI4LD8zKaboqfNFEWFK3PvAo.1>. Contact Davalene Cooper if you have any questions.

Special Program at Old Ship: *Becoming Trustworthy White Allies* on Thursday, October 23, from 7-8 p.m. on 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](#). If you are interested in reading her book, it is available from Duke University Press for a 30% discount with this code: E25MRRSN. The discounted price for the paperback is \$16.77 instead of \$23.95. The dedicated web link for the book is <https://www.dukeupress.edu/becoming-trustworthy-white-allies>. It is not necessary to read the book in order to attend 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. Here is the Zoom link for this program: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86132803836?pwd=qUdJCdykONXVblirmbW2TPuem1tA5N.1>.

October Special Plate/Outreach Collection: The Weetumuw School in Mashpee — This school is a culture and language school where children from ages 2 to 9 are immersed in Wampanoag culture and language in a safe, healthy, and loving environment. The school aims to eliminate the separation that many tribal members have experienced between their education and their culture. You can learn more about the school [at this link](#) or at [HOME | Weetumuw School](#). We believe supporting this school is an important part of our work in supporting indigenous communities.

Donations can be made as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House on Sunday, October 5, or at anytime throughout the month through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: Weetumuw School. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world and supports those who are teaching their cultural values and language to their children.

Antiracism Drop in Book Group Meeting on October 19 at 7 p.m. on Zoom — All are welcome to attend our discussion of *Why Black Men Nod to Each Other: Some Lessons and Observations on Life (A Memoir)* by Bill Raynor. The book is described as a memoir that "offers an array of snapshots into his life. The reader is allowed to follow him from Boston's housing projects to the villages of Senegal. Race is a central theme as he provides context to how it intersects with every fabric of life. Bill explores his journey from teaching, coaching, entertaining and his work with young men of color. The book

explores the phenomenon of Black males' connection to each other through their shared experiences of intentional and unintentional institutional racism. Raynor offers personal examples from his time at a private catholic high school to his time at Dartmouth college and his long tenure as a college basketball coach and his experience as a Director of the Young Men of Color initiative." This book is an important contribution to our understanding of white supremacy culture and how it impacts black men in our society. The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87637841227?pwd=LVEbQGUtuRZIB83OZ5U9atbNmfgAHN.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 October, the food pantry is especially in need of Mac & Cheese and hearty soups.* Of course, all food nonperishable food items are accepted. Donations also can be made at the Stop and Shop in Hingham.

Immigration Issues — Several members of our community have expressed interest in learning more about how we might confront issues around the current immigration situation in our country. We continue to explore opportunities for us to learn and advocate on this issue. In the interim, we encourage those interested to view a list of resources from the Hingham Unity Council, which can be found at [Resources for Immigrants - Hingham Unity Council](#). Additionally, the League of Women Voters in Hingham is planning a program on immigration later this fall. We will keep the congregation informed of these efforts as the fall progresses.

Thanks to our Father Bill's Cooking Teams — As you may know, our community provides dinner for those served by Father Bill's in Quincy for a total of 24 days. Each of our six teams prepares dinner four times each year for about 150 clients. In this newsletter, we want to thank those members of our community who provide these meals. Thanks to each of you! Here are the members of each team. **Team 1:** Charlotte Champagne (team leader), Mary Petrino, Bob Casey, Kathy Lynch, Kevin Mulvey & Bruce Mauer. **Team 2:** Sharon Prehn (team leader) Nina Wellford, Chris Johnson, Ellen Curtin, Susan Weisenbeck, Judy Sneath, Mary Markel & David Murphy. **Team 3:** Peggy Weymouth (team leader), Ronnie Scott, Julie Kembel, Avis Goldstein, Stephanie Connolly, Kathi Lesko, Pam King. **Team 4:** Dave Petrie (team leader), Mid Walsh, Brenda Black & Ron Pollara, Jean Railton, Stewart Lewack, Diane and Rich Elliott, Liz Maillet, Diane and Bill Walcott. **Team 5:** Janice McPhillips (team leader), Janet Blampied, Susan Read-Brown, Roseanne Bush, Laura Harbottle, Kathie Mignacca, Caryn Schneider, Gail Moran Slater, Jill Temme. **Team 6:** Lisa Sawyer and Pia Young (Co-leaders), Fan Leonard, Davalene Cooper, Jack Gomez, Susannah Thomas, Catherine Mayes, Kathryn White, Margo Mitchell, Elaine Cusker, Glenda Tabaczynski.

SUNDAY FLOWERS DONOR

Interested in being a donor for the Sunday flowers? September 28th is 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 or 781-925-0101).



**Ethan Torrey to speak on
Supreme Court's Beginnings
Saturday, October 25 at 3:00 P.M.
Meeting House**



The Friends of Old Ship Meeting House invite you to join us for a special program: *The Supreme Court and Judicial Independence in the Early Republic*.

We are honored to welcome Hingham native (and son of Elizabeth!) Ethan V. Torrey, who serves as the Legal Counsel of the Supreme Court of the United States. As such, he provides legal services to the Supreme Court as an institution, and support to the justices on a variety of case-related issues. Torrey also teaches a class on the History of the Supreme Court at George Washington University.

In recognition of the approaching 250th anniversary of the founding of our country, Ethan's presentation will focus on the Supreme Court and judicial independence in the early republic, from the Declaration of Independence to the Chief Justiceship of John Marshall.

A graduate of Hingham High School and the University of Pennsylvania, Ethan Torrey received an MA in History from Columbia University and his JD from Columbia University Law School. Prior to becoming Legal Counsel of the Supreme Court, Ethan was a partner at Choate Hall & Stewart LLP, an associate at Ropes & Gray LLP, and a Special Assistant District Attorney in the Middlesex County District Attorney's Office. Earlier he was a law clerk on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit and on the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts. Torrey is an elected member of the American Law Institute. His deep knowledge and passion for the law translates into fascinating insights into this bedrock of American Government.

Seating is first come/first served. While no tickets are required, a suggested contribution of \$20 per adult (cash, check, or credit card at the door) will be gratefully accepted to assist with ongoing preservation of this historic treasure. Light refreshments will be offered after the presentation at Ames Chapel, nearby in Hingham Cemetery.

A Merrie Market Message

Hello Old Shippers, near and far.
As October begins to unfold so to does the planning and preparing for one of our largest annual fundraising events.

Merrie Market, 2025 will be held on Saturday, December 13th at the Hingham Community Center.

Thank you to all the many volunteers and contributors that made last year's Merrie Market so successful.

Volunteers are needed and information on how you can participate in this wonderful holiday extravaganza will be coming out in the weeks ahead.



I look forward to working together with everyone as we collectively engage efforts to make OSC's, Merrie Market a continued success. Please feel free to contact me directly. Thank you, Dave Petrie
cell: 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

- **Deacon's Meeting** - Wednesday, October 1, 6:00 p.m.
- **Board of Trustees** - Wednesday, October 8, 6:30 p.m. Zoom/Parlor
[Click here for the zoom link](#) The agenda will be sent out the week of the meeting

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!



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

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