

14 Main Street
Hingham, MA 02043
(781) 749-1679
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www.oldshipchurch.org

November 2025 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for December's newsletter: Tuesday, November 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!



NURTURING GRATITUDE November Worship

November 2 Honoring the Past - Living for Today

Rev Carie, Christopher Nicholson-Mann and the Pastoral Care Team In this annual Service of Remembrance, we pause to remember the life of friends, family and Old Ship members who have departed this past year. Together we will explore the ways our loved ones continue to guide our days. All ages will be invited to participate in ritual of remembrance.".

During the service we will name all the Old Ship members and friends who have died during the past year. The gathered community will be invited to name family members, friends and pets who have passed as well. **Please bring a photo or memento of any family member, dear friend or beloved**

pet who has died at any time in the past; during the service we will bring these items forward to an altar of memory.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME -- DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK!

November 9 Love at the Center: Nurturing Generosity

Rev Carie and Christopher Nickelson-Mann

Our Unitarian Universalist values invite us to live generously in an everwidening circle of Love. In this service we will explore how the reciprocal nature of gratitude and generosity create more than a ripple on this livingbreathing-loving planet we call home.

November 16 Transgender Day of Remembrance

Rev Carie, Christopher Nickelson-Mann and Transgender Caregiver Support Group

First Parish in Hingham (Old Ship), will pause for transgender Day of Remembrance, to observed and honor the memory of transgender individuals whose lives were lost in acts of anti-transgender violence. We will read the names of those lost, light candles of remembrance, and be together in prayer. We will reflect on what this faith asks of us as we witness increased oppression, legislation, and violence toward our transgender siblings.

November 23 Singing as a Birthright

Jenni Mulqueen and Christopher Nickelson-Mann

The simple act of singing, so natural in childhood, is perhaps one of our most soulful human expressions. How is it, then, that so many lose this powerful birthright? How might we invite ourselves back onto a singing journey that connects us to the divine?

November 30 Sacred Café at 14 Main Street

Karen Churchill and Diane Elliott

On this fifth Sunday after Thanksgiving, we're going to try something new and deeply relational. We will gather for the practice of Small Group Ministry. Members of the worship team will welcome you to Old Ship office building at 14 Main Street at 10:30 for *Sacred Café*. After gathering up a morning snack and preferred beverage, attendees will be randomly assigned to a small group for a chalice light, a reading to center the conversations, and question to guide group reflection. All ages welcome!

JUST TO BE VERY CLEAR: THIS "SERVICE" WILL BE HELD AT 14 MAIN STREET!

This years Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, Wednesday, November 26 hosted by Sha'aray Shalom.

The Hingham Hull Religious Leaders Association will be hosting the

Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service at Sha'aray Shalom Temple 1112 Main St, Hingham, MA 02043 Further details forthcoming.



Everyday Ordinary Theologies

We are now well immersed in our second year of transitional ministry. Many continue to ask: What is the work of transitional ministry? I appreciate that this can be a difficult concept to understand and internalize. I offer this refresher, with examples of transitional work in progress and an invitation for further engagement.



Transitional ministry invites us to pause—to look back with gratitude, access spiritual strengths, and identify areas for growth. It is a time for listening, discernment, and discovery. We keep asking:

- Who are we now?
- What do we value most about our shared life?
- What hopes and hungers call us toward our future?

Last year, the **Transitional Ministry Team (TMT)** provided a meaningful platform for sharing the history of First Parish in Hingham (Old Ship) and listening to one another. Through storytelling and listening circles, the congregation reflected on past accomplishments, moments of pride and joy, times of disappointment and pain, and aspirations for the future. These events allowed the community to celebrate the best of Old Ship and begin processing the more tender experiences. A Sunday morning grief ritual invited members to process and release pain and grief related to ministerial transitions, the Parish sale, and personal experiences. See Listening Circle Report **HERE** and TMT Annual Report **HERE**.

The **Social Justice Council (SJC)** demonstrated a commitment to historical stewardship with the release of the report, "Black and Native American People in the Early History of Old Ship Church." Multiple worship services invited members to reflect on what it means to be truth-tellers and good allies/accomplices. In addition to providing opportunities for reflection and action specific to racial justice, the SJC is currently reviewing and reflecting on Old Ship's land acknowledgment practices.

The **Worship and Music Committee (WAM)** continues to explore and support new models for worship, singing, ritual, and multigenerational engagement. An emerging **children's spiritual exploration community** is asking: What do families need from us in these complicated times of parenting?

The **Board of Trustees (BOT)** has identified four priority areas: stewardship of building and grounds, leadership development, vibrant community (in-reach, out-reach), and financial responsibility. There is much to do. Small and large actions, thoughtful discussions, committee work, and stakeholders guide the way forward.

These ministries, and so many more, remind us that the heart of the congregation is not in a building or one minister, but in the collective life we create together—the living heartbeat of shared ministry.

Ministry belongs to all of us! It is how we embody our covenant with one another in times of joy and concern. It is the weaving together of our varied gifts, passions, and commitments in service to Love.

Shared ministry asks us to see First Parish in Hingham not as a place where a few lead and the rest follow, but as a dynamic community of mutual care and co-creation. The sacred work of this church—welcoming the stranger, nurturing the young, comforting the grieving, challenging injustice—is sustained not by one person or a few, but by the shared love and labor of many.

In this spirit, on January 17, 2026, the TMT will host a celebration of shared ministry. This day-long, all-congregational retreat will continue the exploration and discernment of identity, guiding values, and aspirations through the illumination of long-standing, emerging, and waning ministries. Come be a part of shaping the collective future of this beloved community.

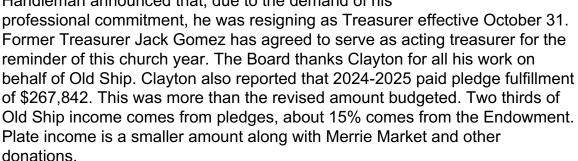
In the meantime, look around the community, read the newsletters, and find a place to share your gifts, passions, and commitments. Step up to leadership. Lean in as a follower or worker bee. Be a part of this dynamic community shaping the future.

In faith, Rev. Carie

November Board of Trustees Update

On Wednesday, October 8th, the BOT met for its monthly meeting. Here are items of note;

Treasurer's Resignation – Treasurer Clayton Handleman announced that, due to the demand of his



Community Space Team (CST) – Board liaison and acting chair Dennis Hogan reported the following; the focus of the committee is the preparation of a one-story option that will fit on the size of the parcel while affording the greatest amount of interior space. A primary concern for this configuration is the cost of parking, and whether a proposal with no or little parking can be approved by the Town. Team members Elaine Gomez and Laura Harbottle attended an October Hingham Planning Board meeting and had preliminary discussion about this option. The meeting was cordial though the Planning Board did ask if there was any way to include parking. Final plans will be developed to determine a cost estimate and bring the two options with costs to the congregation – likely in late November or December. CST will meet with the architect next week to discuss how to consider parking if the congregation wishes to go forward including it now or later. There have been four general contractors who have expressed wishes to bid on the project as well as an estimator.

Minister's Discretionary Fund - The Deacons, with input Rev. Carie and Jack

Gomez, developed a new policy to manage this fund that is consistent with general Unitarian Universalist Association guidelines and the needs of Old Ship. This was policy was voted on and unanimously approved.

Religious Education - Board Liaison Corey Fitz Marquez reported on a recent gathering as thirteen members met to discuss RE and brainstorm ideas for programs with a goal of weekly programming. Nina Wellford and Corey will colead the committee. Rev. Carie noted that Old Ship needed to adopt a safe congregations policy and Jennifer Lincoln agreed to investigate and present a draft.

Building & Grounds – Vice President/Board Liaison and Janice McPhillips reported that inspection just indicated that occupancy of the MH is 350 main floor and 195 in the gallery. It was agreed that Janice should develop some approaches regarding the oversight and follow up of annual inspections, including paid assistance.

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

Trish McAleer, President

New Gift Acceptance Policy

After extensive review, the Board of Trustees, at their October meeting, adopted a Gift Acceptance Policy (click here for the policy). The UUA strongly recommends adoption such policies to ensure that when gifts are received, they can be gratefully accepted knowing that the gift is appropriate for the purposes of the congregation. This is especially true (though not exclusively) for gifts of securities or tangible property. It is modeled after similar policies at other congregations. If there are any questions review the policy and contact Elaine Cusker, Clerk, mail to:ecusker@buffalo.edu.

Sunday, October 19th 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, October 19, 2025 Service



RE is SET!

Well, it's getting there! We are happy to say that we once again have a committee dedicated to developing Old Ship's religious education program for children and families. We're launching with a new name: Spiritual Exploration Team, or SET, which we think



better reflects the needs of families in today's world.

Co-chairs Corey Fitz-Marquez and Nina Wellford are putting together the SET team that will build on the work already begun by Rev. Carie, lead teacher Addy, former RE Chair Trish and mentor Judi. The first goal is to create a core of 8 adults who can commit to one Sunday a month, so that we have two enthusiastic leaders with the children at 14 Main every week. If you would like to help in this way, please talk to Corey, Nina or Addy. We have simple and fun materials to use, and you will be partnered with an experienced lead to begin with. Many times a parent will also be present, so there is plenty of support. You'll need to be CARI approved as part of our safe community policy - a very simple process.

Many Old Shippers have volunteered in the RE program in the past - you know how rewarding it can be. Think about joining again, to support the delightful families we have with us now! We are also excited to be thinking about ways to serve the wider community as families search for ways to connect around spiritual values. At the Arts Walk on Oct 19, dedicated Old Shippers reached out to dozens of children and adults with a fun painting project and new informational materials about who we are as UUs. The SET plans to welcome all families with programs that are meaningful, supportive and fun. Please join us!!

Fellowship Hour & Snacks Sunday, November 2nd

Fellowship Hour will be held at the Meeting House (weather permitting) Last names beginning **A - H** are asked to bring a snack on Sunday, November 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



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

in it's box or served on a paper plate. Thanks everyone.



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,

Last month I spoke very briefly during a Sunday service about the new virtual hymnal that debuted at General Assembly called *Sing Out Love*. I thought this would be a great opportunity to introduce you to this resource, so that you can familiarize yourself with all it has to offer. In brief, the vision for this hymnal is "to build a living collection of song resources through an accessible, equitable, online platform grounded in UU values. This virtual hymnal will help Unitarian Universalism live into our prophetic calling as a joyful, liberatory, and anti-oppressive faith." I would encourage you to follow the link and spend some time exploring the extensive song list, which is continually evolving and expanding. I'm excited to use this new 21st Century hymnal. I hope to see your face and hear your voice at an upcoming service.

Sing Out Love

Musically, Christopher

WISDOM OF THE POETS

The Gates of Hope by Victoria Stafford (UU Minister)

Our mission is to plant ourselves at the gates of Hope - Not the prudent gates of Optimism,

Which are somewhat narrower.

Not the stalwart gates of Common Sense, Nor the strident gates of Self-Righteousness, Which creak on shrill and angry hinges (People cannot hear us there; they cannot pass through) Nor the cheerful, flimsy garden gate of "Everything is gonna' be all right."

But a different, sometimes lonely place, The place of truth-telling, About your own soul first of all and it's condition.

Responses always welcome- <u>elizabethtorrey@hotmail.com</u>



Community Space Team (CST) November Update

Due to higher than expected estimates to build a two story structure, over the past few weeks the Community Space Team has been evaluating how to accommodate the essential functions of a Parish House in a one-story building. This would have a footprint of 40' x 50', slightly larger than the first



version, and overall site work will be reduced. We expect to receive new estimates from contractors in the next two to three weeks which will help get a better sense of total costs.

Two members attended an informal discussion with the Planning Board and we are in the process of scheduling a similar discussion with the Historic Districts Commission. We have also reached out to Mass. Historic Commission and received some initially favorable comments.

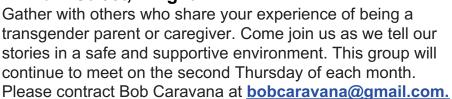
Welcome Newcomers! Join Us for a Monthly Newcomers Coffee Sunday, November 16th



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, November 16th. If you have any questions, please reach out to <u>Elaine Cusker</u>, <u>Diane</u> <u>Elliott</u>, <u>Teri Lillis</u> or our Minister, <u>Rev. Carie Johnsen</u>

Trans Parent and Caregiver Support Group Thursday, November 20th at 6:30 P.M. 14 Main Street, Hingham





Life Learning Offerings

Our Life Learning Committee has completed the schedule of classes and groups for 2025-2026.

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**, **November 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 1:00 p.m.** in 14 Main Street Parlor. All women are welcome! For info contact **Diane Elliott**.

Sacred Texts Meditation Group

Next gathering: Thursday, November 13th

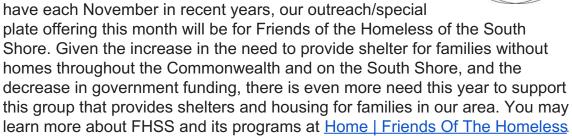
4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Zoom Second and fourth Thursday afternoons Each session will have a reading, a 15-minute meditation, and exploration of one chapter from the Tao Te Ching (including its meaning to each of us), as well as related writings, poetry or art. Newcomers are welcome. Gatherings will be Zoom 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 <u>Lisa Sawyer</u>.

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, November 23rd.** Contact <u>Eric Espinosa</u> or <u>Rubin Marquez</u> for information and a Zoom link.

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

November Special Plate/Outreach Collection: Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore (Friends) — As we



social

Justice

The share the plate offering in the Meeting House will take place on Sunday, November 23. Odalis Rull, the new Executive Director of FHSS (Herb Newell retired last year) will be with us for the service and will speak briefly before the offering. Donations also can be made online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore.

Additional Support for the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore (Friends) — As you may recall, we use some of the outreach donations to provide food for the holiday dinner for the families served by the Friends. We then donate the remaining funds to the group to use as it needs. The holiday dinner will take place on either December 14 or 16 at a place to be determined. We are looking for a few people to help coordinate volunteers for

the dinner and to help with shopping. We will be asking for volunteers to cook and serve the dinner later in the month. Right now, we need help with these organizing tasks. If these are ways you would like to help, please contact Janice McPhillips.

We also will again participate in the holiday gift program for families served by the Friends, as we have done the past three years. We do not have the details yet for the program, but Davalene Cooper will update the congregation once we have additional information in a weekly email.

Antiracism Drop in Book Group Meeting on November 16 at 7 p.m. on Zoom — All are welcome to attend our discussion of White Evangelical Racism: The Politics of Morality in America, 2nd ed., by Anthea Butler. Butler argues that racism is at the core of conservative evangelical activisim and power. The book explores how white evangleicals have used the Bible and their religion to defend slavery and to oppose racial equality and civil rights. Butler is a historian and a Professor in American Social Thought at the University of Pennsylvania. 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 November, the food pantry is especially in need of Healthy Cold Cereal, 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.

Thanks to our members and friends who provided lunches for the Anderson Veterrans House in Hingham in October — As you may know, our interfaith community provides lunches twice a week to the formerly homeless veterans living at the Anderson House in Hingham. Old Ship provides these lunches in October. Thanks to the following members of our community who prepared lunches this past month: Charlotte Champagne, Judi Flaherty, Chris Johnson, Meg Gibbons, Lisa Sawyer, and Louise Smith. Thanks for helping us with this project!

Green Sanctuary

In September, Green Sanctuary wrote letters opposing the EPA's move to rescind the Endangerment Finding. Now the EPA proposes suspending the Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program, which measures the pollution that drives climate change and endangers public health. No data, no regulatory enforcement! Please tell the EPA to uphold the Program. Read more at sidewithlove.org. https://sidewithlove.org/action-center-update?rq=EPA

Two ways to send comments, identified by Docket Id. No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0186:

SANCTUARY

- Federal eRulemaking Portal: https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OAR-2025-0186/document. Follow the online instructions for submitting comments.
- Mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA Docket Center, Office

of Air and Radiation Docket, Mail Code 28221T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20460.

Save the Dates--Coat Drive on Sunday, November 2nd & 9th

The Social Justice Council, Rev. Carie, and her colleague, Rev. Dr. Althea Smith, are sponsoring a winter coat drive for those being served by the Massachusetts Bail Fund. Please bring your well-loved, new or lightly used coats, to the Meeting House on either of the Sundays referenced above. Rev. Carie's car will be parked in front of the Meeting House. ready to receive



your donations. This is a wonderful way to help keep our neighbors facing difficult situations warm this winter! Thanks in advance for your support!

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

The Transitional Ministry Team is back in action and looking for additional help. We are seeking the congregation's suggestions for individuals who could join our Team.

Our mission is to work with Rev. Carie in guiding the congregation through a process of reflection and discernment as we consider "Who is Old Ship". We meet on a regular basis to plan for



congregational gatherings that are designed to build community and assess what is wanting to emerge as we move forward toward a settled ministry.

If you have a suggestion for someone who you think could be a valued addition to our Team, please **email Lisa** in the office

Save the Date! Celebrating and Illuminating Shared Ministry Saturday, January 17, 10:00-2:00

Hosted by: Transitional Ministry Team Location: Hingham Congregational Church See Rev. Carie's article for more information



Fire safety in "The Oldest Wooden Structure In Continuous Use In The Country" is something we are all aware of, at some level, whenever we enter the Old Ship Meeting House. Thoughts have been turning to conversations turning to proposals turning to action and it's important this is a congregation wide conversation.

You may have noticed the new chalice in the front of the building, did you also notice the new base it's sitting on? The new base is larger and more solid, making those of us walking by it less concerned with



accidentally knocking it over. On top of this more sturdy base is a larger chalice with the Candles of Joy and Concern actually sitting inside the fixture as well. The reason for this is the "sand-wax" and wicks being used. The wicks are sitting in wax that takes the shape of sand. If something were to happen and the larger base were to be knocked over, the sand wax is designed to cascade over the flame of the wick while falling, extinguishing the flame. Given that the floor of the Meeting House is oiled regularly, this added precaution felt like the right choice.

The chalice is not the only flame our Meeting House sees throughout the year and conversations have been continuing around the candelabras as well as the candles used during Vespers.

As Fall turns to Winter we are looking to see how a set of flickering electric candles look in the candelabras, and we do hope you share your thoughts with us as you see them being used so we can solidify choices for the future.

For Vespers, we are still brainstorming and would appreciate ideas from you all. The big question is, how do we honor the spirit of Vespers without the use of a live flame, other than that of the chalice? It's not an easy question.

Thank you all and please do reach out to us with your thoughts and concerns,

~ Jesse Flaherty Worship and Music Committee Chair JesseFlaherty@gmail.com

Merrie Market Save the Date! Saturday, December 13th 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Merrie Market is the traditional holiday fundraiser that is nearly 100% organic to the Old Ship Community. This event would not be possible without the support from YOU, the generous volunteers who contribute hours of their time, energy and loving support. There are lots of opportunities and again we need many volunteers this December. Please sign up to help out, have



fun and prosper together. Thank you, Dave Petrie. Click here to sign up.

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

- Community Space Team Meeting Monday November 3, 7:00 p.m.,
 Zoom Click here for the zoom link
- Deacon's Meeting Wednesday, November 5, 6:00 p.m. Offsite
- Board of Trustees Wednesday, November 12, 6:30 p.m. Zoom/Parlor <u>Click here for the zoom link</u> 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. This month we were able to print the sign for our table and the cards for the Hingham Arts Walk! 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!

