



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

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## July 2026 Monthly Newsletter

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***Deadline for August's newsletter: Tuesday, July 21, 2026***

**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!](#)



### **Summer Services will begin Sunday, June 28nd**

We hope you will join us for our Summer Services! Our first Summer Service will begin at 10:30 A.M. outside the meeting house. This will be an outdoor service. NO ZOOM. All other services this Summer will be 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. The Worship and Music Committee has put together some interesting and thought provoking services. Services are informal and relaxed. Just come as you are and join in our stories.

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

Here's what we have so far:

June 28 - Talking Circles Outside Service **No Zoom**

July 5 -Ellie Handleman: TBD

July 12 - Clayton Handleman & Janice McPhillips: Bluegrass inside

July 19 - Kirsten Snow: Meditation

July 26 - Louise Smith: TBD

August 2 - Elizabeth Torrey Poetry Service

August 9 - Ellen Curtin - Laughter Yoga Get Your Happy On!

August 16 - Nina Wellford - TBD

August 23 - Davalene Cooper: Suffering as a Path to Love

August 30 - Karen Churchill: Fear

September 6 - No Service

## Everyday Ordinary Theologies

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

*At Old Ship, the heart of congregational life is relationship, rooted in love, shaped by covenant and sustained through a community of belonging.*



First and foremost, I want to thank the Transitional Ministry Team. Over the past two years, they have worked hard to facilitate two congregation-wide retreats and provide two end-of-year reports. Although the team's membership shifted somewhat over those two years, they remained focused and collaborative. During this time, they met at least twice a month and stayed curious as they sought to engage the congregation through retreats, listening circles, surveys, and conversation. The culmination of this work can be found in their report, *Congregational Life Insights*.

Second, I want to recognize the congregation, who showed up in large numbers and with equal curiosity to participate in the process. Your deep love and commitment to Old Ship are remarkable. You are the faithful core who keep these doors open, this faith alive, this community steady, and these values real. You are engaged, offering good feedback and thoughtful questions that shape conversations, inform the process, and enliven the ministries unfolding.

Transitional ministry is the work of the whole congregation—not just a few people, not just the minister, and not only the elected leadership. Let's keep showing up as we move into a space of imagining together and step intentionally into the future we want to create.

Your summer assignment is to walk with these questions:

- Who are we *really*, not who we remember being?
- What does it mean to belong here—truly?
- What are we willing to release so something new can grow?
- Where is our energy already alive—and how do we bless it?
- What kind of congregation are we becoming now?
- How does this congregation's passion and values meet the world's needs?
- What does it mean to be a community of faith?

Ponder them while sitting at the beach. Write about them while sitting on the front porch. Grab a cup of coffee with a fellow congregant and engage them week by week. Explore them through research and conversation with other UUs. Bring one question each week to your favorite group. Talk about them during fellowship at summer services. Then come back next fall; the Transitional Ministry Team will be here waiting for you.

Rooted in love, shaped by covenant, and sustained through community, the future of this congregation and this Unitarian Universalist faith will carry on boldly and courageously—imperfect yet progressing, caring and thriving.

In faith,  
Carie

## Summer Breaks, Connections & Coverage

**Rev. Carie** will be away for summer study leave and vacation from June 22 to August 2 and August 22 to August 28.



**Lisa Beck's** summer hours will be Tuesday and Thursday from 9:00 – 12:00 pm. Starting on June 30th She returns to a 20 hour schedule on August 31<sup>st</sup>. (She is out of the office 6/23 -6/29, returning Tuesday, June 30th)

**Christopher Nickelson-Mann** began his summer break on June 15<sup>th</sup>. He will return to Old Ship on August 17<sup>th</sup> to begin planning and preparing for the 26/27 church year.

In their absence:

Karen Churchill, Chris Sullivan, Diane Elliott and friends are once again prepared to lead summer services in the Meeting House.

Jancie McPhillips, Board Vice President will check voicemail at the office and respond accordingly.

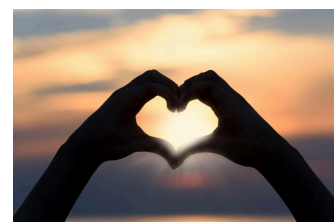
Janice and Jane Zimmermann, Board President are, as always, available to attend to congregational issues and concerns at Janice 781-249-9141, Jane 508-264-5473.

## Pastoral Care Coverage

During this times, the Pastoral Care Team will respond to pastoral emergencies and care needs within the community. Please send confidential email to [pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org)

## Pastoral Care at Old Ship

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 or via their new confidential email to [pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org).



Debbie Squire-Lee  
Elaine Gomez  
Claire Petrie  
Louise Smith  
Rev. Carie Johnson

### **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. During the Rev. Carie's absence please send a confidential email to [pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:pastoralcare@oldshipchurch.org).

### **July Board of Trustees Update**

On June 10th, the Board of Trustees met for their monthly meeting. Among the present were outgoing President Trish McAleer and Trustee Dennis Hogan, continuing Vice President Janice McPhillips and Clerk Elaine Cusker, Trustee Corey Fitz-Marquez, and incoming President Elect Jane Zimmermann, Trustee Elect Chris Johnson and Trustee Elect Kathy Mignacca. Here are relevant items not discussed elsewhere:



**Revised 2026/2027 Budget** – Acting Treasurer Jack Gomez reported the following: As the Congregation voted to restore the Music Directors hours to the 2025/2026 level and add \$12,000 to budgeted pledges as well as authorize to Board to make other budgetary adjustments to reflect final pledges and updated information. The Board approved the adjustments noted below. A complete budget can be found [here](#).

- Pledges have increased by \$26k.
- The Music Director compensation and benefits increase \$11k reflecting the revision of hours to the 2025/2026 level plus the two percent staff salary increase.
- Parish Assistant and Technology salaries and benefits were revised based on a more detailed calculation of hours.
- Other Building Expenses with reflect the transfer of 107 Main Street savings used to fund 14 Main rent was increased \$5k to bring it back to the original level.
- The UUA annual contribution was increased \$2k.
- The overall budget now shows a surplus of approximately ten thousand which was considered prudent given recent draw downs of our surplus and future financial uncertainties.

**Stewardship Team for Next Year** - President Trish McAleer noted the challenges of identifying a Stewardship Team this past year and the need to identify members as soon as possible for next year. Clerk Elaine Cusker recommended starting the budget process earlier so the congregation can be informed about potential cuts. Therefore it was suggested starting the Stewardship Campaign earlier, perhaps in February. Jack Gomez suggested starting program budget requests sooner.

**Treasurer Position** - The search for a Treasurer continues but Jack Gomez has agreed to continue till the end of the calendar year 2026 and continue then to serve as an Asst. Treasurer when a new Treasurer is appointed.

**Saniter Trust Funds** - Previously money disbursed from the Saniter trust for social justice use was given to the Coming of Age program which would designate its' use. Since there is currently no active Coming of Age program, Jack Gomez proposed that the Social Justice Council administer the money and develop a proposal for the policy to use the funds such as a grant program to an appropriate organization. There was such a program in the past. The \$100,000 proceeds of the trust are split 80/20 for social justice and the meetinghouse. Grants in the past included a dentist chair for a clinic in Haiti and Habitat building in Hingham. This proposal was unanimously approved.

**Women's Alliance Funds** – There has been a trust managed by the Bank of America (BOA) for the funds previously used by the Women's Alliance. The Women's Alliance is dormant with only one active member, Fan Leonard, still remaining. Annually, the trust receives \$500-600. Fan Leonard has suggested that the funds now be used to buy gifts for our staff. Mike Dwyer and Jack Gomez proposed that the Trustee be informed that the Alliance member designates staff gifts and BOA will send to the church and the Treasurer would oversee the process. The Board approved that the proceeds from the Hersey bequest for the Women's Alliance be transferred to the Old Ship for use for Annual Holiday Staff gifts.

**Committee Chairs** - Clerk Elaine Cusker read the committee chairs who have been identified for next year: Memorial Garden Committee – Lorraine Varney  
Committee on Shared Ministry – Joe Cusker, Building & Grounds – none to date – Janice McPhilips as convenor, SET – Nina Wellford & Corey Fitz-Marquez, Finance – Jack Gomez, Worship & Music – Jessie Flaherty, Nominating Committee – Claire Petrie

**Staff Holidays** - Rev. Carie advised that the Personal Advisory Group recommends that staff who work 20 hours or more are eligible for holidays. Also, starting this year, Old Ship will observe Juneteenth (June 19) as a staff holiday and the office will be closed.

**Summer Board Schedule** - Though incoming Board members will be seated July 1st, the Board will not have a July Board meeting. August 5th was set as the date for the summer Board retreat.

The Board welcomes your questions and comments. Please email BOT President Trish McAleer at [president@oldshipchurch.org](mailto:president@oldshipchurch.org).

## **Fellowship Hour & Snacks** **Sunday, June 28th**

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



## Among Us

In the third week of June, Joan Wilson broke her pelvis in a fall,. She was treated at South Shore Hospital for several days. We can write to her at Life Care Center, 309 Driftway, Scituate, MA 02066, where she'll have PT and OT. Dennis advises that she's not yet up to calls and visits. Joan and Dennis, we're sending you every good wish.



## Sunday, June 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, June 14, 2026 Service.

The sound quality is pretty bad, it is not your machines having issues.

This is the last shared service until we share the September 13, 2026 service.



## Attention Families! Join us for Children's Spiritual Exploration (formerly known as RE)!



## Old Ship looks to hire a Spiritual Exploration Coordinator

The Spiritual Exploration Team (SET) is looking forward to hiring a new SE Coordinator to help us build our program for children and youth next year, thanks to the support shown by everyone at Annual Meeting. We have developed a job description for this position, and will be posting it soon. The Coordinator will work with the SET to reach out to and engage families in the wider community, and develop a joyful spiritual education program to meet their needs. Please think about if you know anyone whom you could point our way! It does take a village, or in a more apt metaphor, an entire crew, to run this Old Ship! SE appreciates you all!

## TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

The TMT will take a bit of a summer break to refresh and recharge. In addition to walking with the questions listed in Rev. Carie's Everyday Ordinary Theologies, we invite you to reflect on Caryn Schneider's poem "From Crossroads to Calling". Thank you Caryn for your creative inspiration!



Old Ship, you stand where two roads meet,  
Where purpose calls and futures greet,  
Discernment asks: what do we share?  
What time, what energy, how do we care?

Our roots run deep in legacy ground,  
In memory, covenant, and in sound  
Of voices carried through the years  
Through triumphs, grief, through hopes and fears.

Yet roots alone won't chart the way,  
Or light the path to a new day,  
We're called to look beyond what's known,  
To tend the seeds that we have sown.

Vitality is not a gift bestowed,  
But chosen, tended, and clearly showed  
In how we align our will and way  
With what we're called to do today.

For without intention, we may drift  
On tides that offer neither purpose nor gift  
They're carried along our collective stream  
Into a future no one dreamed.  
So let us steer with open eyes,  
And choose our course beneath these skies.

## Wisdom of the Poets

### UNDER THE TREE, HERE

Under the tree, here,  
between green shadows rippling like a stream  
and the flagrant eyes of the sun,  
the summer morning passes, the summer  
passes with its happiness.  
Happiness of the wide air, of the clouds  
dripping light,  
of the gold fruit hanging on the golden boughs.  
Happiness of the old heart,  
alive, in love.

- Diego Valeri, Italian, 1887-1976

and this quote from poet Gabrielle Calvocoressi: "Maybe poems matter because they're always waiting for you to find them, and then they stay with you for the rest of your life."

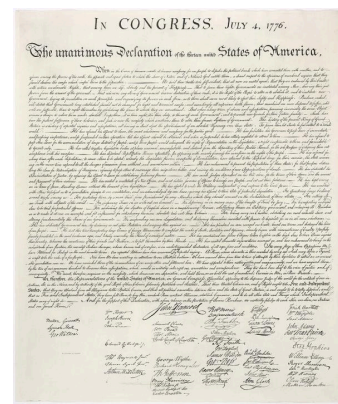
Perhaps you could think of a poem or the wisdom lines from a poem that has lived with you all your life. I would love to hear from you.

Responses always welcome - [Elizabeth Torrey](#)



## Declaration of Independence to be Read at Meeting House July 8

On July 8 at 6:00 pm, towns across the Commonwealth will read the Declaration of Independence, on the 250th anniversary of this monumental event. The Town of Hingham will hold Hingham's reading outside at Old Ship Meeting House, with 12 town leaders taking portions of the document. The Memorial Bell Tower bells will be rung as people gather, and the Meeting House bell will ring 13 times, one for each colony, after the reading. The event should conclude by around 7 pm. If raining, it will be held inside the Meeting House.



## Trans Parent and Caregiver Support Group Thursday, July 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 third Thursday of each month. Please contact Bob Caravana at [bobcaravana@gmail.com](mailto:bobcaravana@gmail.com).



*Life Learning*  
at Old Ship  
2025 - 2026



### Life Learning Offerings

*Our Life Learning Committee has completed the schedule of classes and groups for 2025-2026. [Please click here for the schedule.](#)*

### **The Gathering**

The Gathering will meet **every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m.** in the 14 Main Street Parlor. All women are welcome! For info contact [Diane Elliott](#).

**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. We will not meet during June, July or August. Our next gathering will meet on **Sunday, September 27th** Contact [Eric Espinosa](#) or [Rubin Marquez](#) for information and a Zoom link.

**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](#).

**Ceilidh!** – Gathers on the first Tuesday of each month. This means our next monthly song/poem circle will be on **Tuesday evening July 7th at 7:00 p.m.** We are currently planning to gather in the Parlor. Email [Eric Cornetta](#) with any questions about Ceilidh.

## Sacred Texts Meditation Group

**Next gathering: Thursday, July 9th**

**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](#).

### Thanks for supporting the Hingham Food Pantry!

This week, we sent a check for \$1,317.43 to the Hingham Food Pantry. This was the final amount of our outreach/share the plate offering for the month of May. Thanks to everyone who supported this important work of feeding our neighbors. In addition, we collected more than 500 pounds of food for the food pantry during the course of this church year!

We will continue to accept donations of food for the pantry during the summer--both at summer services and at 14 Main Street. *At this time, the food pantry is in need of the following items: Pasta Sauce, 1lb or 2lb bags/boxes of Granulated Sugar, Crackers, Instant Coffee, Boxes of Granola Bars, Grape Jelly, Canned Beef Stew, and 64oz bottles of Cranberry Juice.*



### Reclaim Our Power-- Get Out the Vote for this Fall's Midterm Elections!

The Social Justice Council has purchased postcards and other materials to participate in this year's UU the Vote Campaign. We will be sending postcards to potential voters in several battleground states, including North Carolina, Texas, Georgia, and Virginia. Statistics from 2024 indicate that the targeting done by our partners in these efforts increased voter turnout among BIPOC communities by about 8 percent.

We will be receiving addresses throughout the summer and people can request materials so that we can prepare our postcards to be mailed at the appropriate time in September and October. You will receive the script for the postcards along with the addresses. This makes for an easy process.

If you would like to participate, let me know at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net) or 781-724-1949. I will create a master list of possible participants and as I get addresses, I will send out an email inviting people to participate in this project.

I now have addresses for North Carolina. If you would like to begin writing postcards, let me know how many you would like to write. You will not mail these North Carolina postcards October 5. There are specific instructions to follow. Generally, we distribute in packets of 25, 50, or 100.

Let me know if you have any questions or if you want to put on my list of postcard writers. Thanks in advance for participating and putting our values in this year's important elections! (Submitted by Davalene Cooper)



## Scam Emails and Texts

**On Thursday (6/8/26) a scam email was sent supposedly from Turner Bledsoe**

It stated: Please provide me with a copy of our church member directory in any available electronic format you have. Thank you.



### **DO NOT OPEN IT OR RESPOND!**

The first thing I did was look at the sender's email address. It was not Turner's email address!.

Scammers count on the fact you are distracted. If you receive an email, look at the email address. It is usually not the correct email address, but very similar.

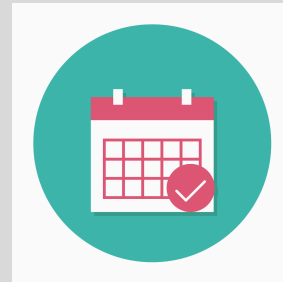
If a phone call seems weird or phishy, it probably is. Hang up immediately!.

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

## 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

No Meeting scheduled at this time

## Office Hours

Week of June 22nd: Monday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

**Office Closed**

**Tuesday, June 23. - Friday, June 26**

**Summer Hours begin:**

Week of June 29th: Tues & Thu. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM





Have a happy, healthy  
summer from your friends at  
Old Ship Church!

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

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