



first parish, hingham
old ship church
unitarian universalist

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

office@oldshipchurch.org
www.oldshipchurch.org

August 2026 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for September's newsletter: Tuesday, August 18, 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

We hope you will join us for our Summer Services! All 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.

August 2 - Elizabeth Torrey Annual Poetry Service

This year's poetry service is entitled "Gladness of Heart", or how not to lose heart as we ride the waves of destabilizing change.

Elizabeth Torrey will bring news from the heart as she shares the . wisdom in words that nurture hope, patience, and kindness from poetry's truth tellers

A bouquet of summer poems will round out the service.

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

August 16 - Nina Wellford - Fresh Eyes vs. the Default Brain

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 31st.

Christopher Nickelson-Mann began his summer break on June 15th. He will return to Old Ship on August 17th 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

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.

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.

August Board of Trustees Update

Greetings from the new Board of Trustees.

Your new and returning board members are: Jane Zimmermann, President; Janice McPhillips, Vice President; Jack Gomez, Treasurer; Elaine Cusker, Clerk; and trustees at large Corey Fitz-Marquez, Chris Johnson, and Kathie Mignacca.



We will be having an informal board retreat on the morning of August 5 to discuss priorities going forward. If you have any thoughts on this, please let any or all of us know.

We hope you are enjoying your summer and our informal, fun, fascinating, and varied summer services. Regular services resume on September 13. See you then!

Jane Zimmermann

Fellowship Hour & Snacks Sunday, August 2nd

Fellowship Hour will be held at the Meeting House (weather permitting) Last names beginning **Q - Z** are asked to bring cold drinks and a snack on **Sunday, August 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 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,. Joan Wilson has returned home, where she will continue to to receive nursing care and physical therapy. We can write to her at home! Joan and Dennis, we're sending you our good wishes.



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



Old Ship looks to hire a Spiritual Exploration Coordinator

Old Ship is Hiring!

We are seeking an enthusiastic and creative Spiritual Exploration Coordinator! Working closely with the Minister and Spiritual Exploration Team, you will develop and lead engaging programs for children and youth, strengthen family participation, and build relationships within the wider South Shore community. Responsibilities include leading spiritual exploration activities three Sundays each month, coordinating volunteers, communicating with families, promoting programs through social media and other outreach efforts, and helping create fun, intergenerational events that reflect Unitarian Universalist values. The ideal candidate is passionate about working with children, enjoys building community, and can create welcoming, inclusive learning environments where young people feel valued and engaged. Strong communication, organizational, and collaborative skills are essential. The full job description [is here](#). Please share widely; reply to the office with interest by September 1.

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

FIREFLIES

here come
the fireflies

with their staccato
lights

their tiny headlights
blinking

in silence
through the tall grass

like constellations
cut loose

from the night
sky

(See how desire
transforms

the plainest
of us)

or flashes of insight
that flare

for a moment
then flicker out

the late Linda Pastan (Poet Laureate of Maryland)



Be as a bird perched on a frail branch
that she feels bending beneath her,

still she sings away

all the same,

knowing that she has wings.

- Victor Hugo

Responses always welcome - [Elizabeth Torrey](#)

Social Justice News

Our annual planning meeting is Sunday, August 9 at 4 p.m. If you would like to be part of our SJC work this church year, please contact Davalene Cooper, Chair, for additional information about this meeting. All are welcome to be part of the SJC.



Help Get Out the Vote for the Midterm Elections:

The Social Justice Council has purchased postcards to participate in the UU the Vote Project with the UUA. We are sending postcards to get out the vote to voters in North Carolina, Georgia, and Texas. The postcards are written now, but are not mailed until early October. Statistics indicate that this targeted mailing of postcards increased voter turnout in these areas by about 8% during the last election. It is easy to write the message--the script is provided along with the addresses. We ask that you purchase the postcard stamps, but if that is a burden, let us know, as we have some postcard stamps available. If you would like to participate, contact Davalene Cooper at 781-724-1949 (call or text) and tell her how many postcards you would like--it is easiest if you take 30 or 60 (or more!).

Hingham Food Pantry:

We continue to collect food for the Hingham Food Pantry during our summer services and at 14 Main Street when the office is open or an event or meeting is taking place there. Currently, the food pantry is in need of the following items: *Boxes of Granola/Cereal Bars, Canned Beef Stew, Rice Side Dishes, small jars of Mayonnaise, 64 oz bottles of Cranberry Juice, and Dog or Cat Food, canned or dry.* Please note that all donations need to be non-perishable, unopened and unexpired.

Volunteers needed to make six lunches for the Veterans Home in Hingham this coming October:

We at Old Ship are part of a community wide interfaith effort to provide six lunches twice a week (Tuesday and Friday) to the Anderson Veterans Home at 111 Fort Hill Street in Hingham. Lunch consists of a deli-meat or PB&J sandwich (no chicken or tuna salad), bag of chips or pretzles, piece of fresh fruit, cookie, and water or juice.

Old Ship is responsible for the month of October; we are looking for volunteers to take one or more of the October dates and provide the six lunches. Dates we need to fill are October 2, 6, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27, and 30. The lunches are left in a cooler outside the back door of the home by noon on each date. If you would like to be a part of this effort, please contact Davalene Cooper at davalenecooper@verizon.net or 781-724-1949. Thanks for considering this outreach to the community!

Social Justice Drop in Book Group Returns on Sunday, September 20, at 7 p.m. on Zoom:

Our first book this church year is *Nothing More of This Land:*

Community, Power, and the Search for Indigenous Identity, by award-winning journalist Joseph Lee. "Before Martha's Vineyard became one of the most iconic vacation destinations in the country, it was home to the Wampanoag people. Today, as tourists flock to the idyllic beaches, the island has become increasingly unaffordable for tribal members, with nearly three-quarters now living off-island. Growing up Aquinnah Wampanoag, . . . Lee grappled with what this situation meant for his tribe, how the community can continue to grow, and more broadly, what it means to be Indigenous."

"Lee weaves his own story and that of his family into a panoramic narrative of the challenges facing Indigenous people around the world. He takes us from the beaches of Martha's Vineyard to the icy Alaskan tundra, the smoky forests of Northern California to the halls of the United Nations, and beyond. Along the way he meets activists fighting to protect their land, families clashing with their own tribal leaders, and communities working to reclaim tradition. Together, these stories reject stereotypes to show the diversity of Indigenous people today and chart a way past the stubborn legacy of colonialism."

The Zoom link is <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87270975159?pwd=Lhb7zJzRw86k2jT9hy5LiO8iUzO8lG.1>.

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) News:

Following eight years as UUSC's President and Lead Executive Officer, Rev. Mary Katherine Morn will be retiring at the end of this calendar year. The UUSC Board celebrates her inspiring leadership and is committed to conducting a comprehensive and inclusive search for her successor. It has assembled a search team of Board members and stakeholders that has begun working in collaboration with Diversified Search Group (DSG/Goya) a recruiting firm experienced in executive searches for human rights, faith-based and social service organizations. Former UUA President Bill Sinkford is Chair of the Search Team.

To learn more about how you might engage in advocacy on UUSC issues, visit the website at [Take Action for Human Rights – UUSC Action Center](#). You also may join the UUSC resistance network at that site, and receive action alerts on important issues related to human rights and justice issues, including climate justice.

Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry News:

During the summer, there are many tours and concerts at the Urban Ministry, located at 10 Putnam Street, in the Roxbury neighborhood of Boston. This past spring, the restoration of the First Parish Meeting House was completed and there are opportunities to tour this historic building. Old Ship is a member congregation of the Urban Ministry and we support its mission, which is to "work across race & place to dismantle racism and white supremacy culture & to advance racial, economic, & social justice." We encourage Old Shippers to learn more about this organization by visiting the UUUM's website ([Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry - youth programming | community engagement | Roxbury, Boston, MA, USA](#)). We especially commend the work of the Urban Ministry in uncovering its history related to slavery at First Church in Roxbury during the colonial period, which can be found at [A Living Landmark | Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry](#).

**Thursday, August 20th 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.



Life Learning
at Old Ship
2025 – 2026



Life Learning Offerings

Our Life Learning Committee is in the process of completing the schedule of classes and groups for 2026-2027.

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 August 4th 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, August 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](#).

Scam Emails and Texts

On Thursday (7/23/26) a scam text was sent supposedly from Jane Zimmermann

It stated: Are you less busy at the moment? I have a request for you to manage confidentially. I will be in a meeting in a few minutes, no calls so

kindly respond via text. Blessins.
Jane Zimmerman (they spelled her last name
incorrectly too)

DO NOT OPEN IT OR RESPOND!

The first thing I did was look at the sender's cell
number. It was not Jane's cell number.



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

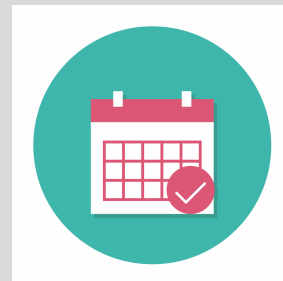
If a phone call, email or text seems weird or phishy, it probably is. Hang up
immediately!.

**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 your contact information has changed,
please email [Lisa](#) so she can update the Old Ship
database.



Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Social Justice Council Planning Meeting** - Sunday, August 9th, 4:00
p.m. . Offsite
- **Transitional Ministry Team Meeting** - Thursday, August 6th, 11:00
a.m., Zoom

Office Hours

Summer Hours:

Tues & Thu. 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM



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

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