



first parish, hingham
old ship church
unitarian universalist

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

office@oldshipchurch.org
www.oldshipchurch.org

September 2026 Monthly Newsletter

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Deadline for October's newsletter: Tuesday, September 22, 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!](#)



August 30th Fear

Karen Churchill

Karen Churchill will be speaking of the duplicitous nature of fear.

Sept. 6th

No Service

Sept 13th

A River Runs Through Us

Rev. Carie Johnsen and Christopher Nickelson Mann

Following our varied summer sojourns, we return to beloved community for our annual In-gathering Sunday. Please remember to bring a vial of water from a place of spiritual significance for our annual water communion. This service will explore our September theme of Interdependence through a spiritual relationship with Mother Earth as source and provider.

Sept 20th Co-Creation: Waking Up from the Illusion of Separation

Rev. Christina Sillari & Christopher Nickelson-Mann

We often get stuck in the myth of the lone creator, working tirelessly and independently to build a life. But the deeper spiritual truth—known by mystics throughout time—is that we are an inherently co-creative species. Join Rev. Christina Sillari as we explore how our foundational interdependence fuels the active, passionate work of co-creation, and how our collective choices shape our lives, spirits, and the evolving future of our faith.



BIO: Rev. Christina Sillari supports individuals and communities in their healing and transformation. As a Unitarian Universalist minister, she serves congregations in transition throughout New England. As a shamanic practitioner she works with individuals and groups as a teacher and mentor. Ultimately, she tends to the souls of people and places. Christina holds two master's degrees, one in divinity and one in psychology as well as certificates in leadership, mediation and multiple healing modalities.

Please Note: Rev. Carie will be away this Sunday attending the [Sacred Reckonings](#) training in Minneapolis with two members of Social Justice Council: Patti Smith and Ellie Handleman.

Sept 27th Remembering Earth: A Spiritual Ecology

Rev. Carie Johnsen & Christopher Nickelson-Mann

What does it mean to remember that we belong to the Earth—not as visitors or caretakers standing apart, but as participants in a vast, living community? Drawing on the wisdom of spiritual ecology, this service invites us to deepen our relationship with the more-than-human world and rediscover the sacredness woven through all life. Together, we will explore practices of attention, wonder, grief, and gratitude—and consider how remembering our kinship with Earth might reshape the way we live, love, and respond to a changing world.

Everyday Ordinary Theologies...

It is good to be back in the practice of shared ministry with Old Ship. As usual I am hearing accolades and appreciation for summer services and the familiar rhythms of the Gathering. Thank you to all who have kept the community vibrant and the doors open.



My summer break was a joyful season of settling into meaningful relationships, practicing nonresistance, volunteering, and cultivating new restorative spiritual practices. By far, my favorite moments were sharing a couple of blues festivals with friends. These spaces enliven my spirit and soothe my weary soul. As I look back, I am grateful for a well-curated balance of community, spirit, passion, and commitment. And the joy of having a new backyard deck made lingering in quiet spaces even more restorative.

Our September worship theme of Interdependence offers a meaningful opportunity to weave the learning and experiences from the spiritual ecology retreat I attended into our worship life. This practice of bridging the human and

the more-than-human within the living, breathing Earth has taken on new meaning for me. I look forward to sharing a spiritual ecology practice during our water communion and returning to the wisdom of spiritual ecology more fully later in the month.

You may have noticed from the worship calendar that I will be preaching only two Sundays this month. On my third weekend, I will travel to Minnesota with two members of the Social Justice Council, Ellie Handleman and Patti Smith, for a [Sacred Reckonings](#) training. In preparation, and at the invitation of the Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association, I participated in a weekly Sacred Reckonings discussion with colleagues. I encourage you to learn more about this *call to the sacred task of reckoning with the histories of colonization and white supremacy* by visiting the Sacred Reckonings website and exploring the [Reparatory Ecomap](#).

I do hope all of you have had time to enjoy the summer sun, the rhythms of the season, and the deepening of passions, commitments and connections with what matters most.

I look forward to beginning year three of shared ministry and seeing all of you at the In-gathering service.

In faith,
Rev. Carie

September 2026 Board Notes

Greetings Old Ship Congregants,

Your new Board of Trustees met in August for a retreat at the home of Janice and Brian McPhillips. Thank you, Janice for, hosting! We got to know each other better, discussed our board covenant, and some of our expectations for the fall.

Our upcoming September 9th regular monthly meeting will be held at a 5:30 p.m. which is a new time for board meetings. We will have a discussion of the priorities and goals we plan to pursue as a board this year. We would very much like to hear from you, the Old Ship community. What do you feel are the priorities at this pivotal and challenging time in our long history? What are your hopes, dreams, and vision for our future? What is possible? What do you want more of at Old Ship? Is something missing that you seek?

Rev. Carie asked us all to consider five questions over the summer. The Gathering has discussed them and has this last one left to address; What does it mean to be a community of faith?

How would you answer this? Please let me, or a board member, hear from you!

We will see you for our first regular service on September 13, our water communion!

Jane Zimmermann, jez9@aol.com



Fellowship Hour & Snacks Sunday, August 30th

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 30th** 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.



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.

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

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.

Musical Notes

Dear Old Ship,

After a wonderful summer full of gardening, hikes, cookouts, and campfires, I am happy to be back at the piano and ready to dive into a new church year. I hope your summer was full of rejuvenation, adventure, and memory-making, or whatever else you needed it to be.



We have so much in store this year. There's a lot of new music coming your way — pieces I hope will move you, comfort you, and inspire you. I'm also excited to offer some new ways to connect with music beyond Sunday mornings, including a musical meditation series — a chance to slow down, breathe, and settle into quiet mindful music. More information will be coming soon.

Looking further ahead, I'm beginning to plan our Christmas Eve service music, which is always one of my favorite services of the year. Additionally, we're planning to offer several Hymn Sing Sundays this year, featuring special guest musicians — something I'm very excited to share with our wonderful community.

It's going to be a memorable year of music and connection. I couldn't be more glad to be sharing it with all of you. See you in September!

Musically,
Christopher

TRANSITIONAL MINISTRY TEAM

The TMT met over the summer with Hilary Allan, our liaison from the UUA, who will help us this year as we continue our transitional work. In September, we'll meet with representatives from other congregations who are also in the transition process. We're looking forward to an exchange of ideas and



experiences with our fellow UUs and we are looking forward to another year of exploration with all of you!

Wisdom of the Poets

HOPE

Old spirit, in and beyond me,
keep and extend me. Amid strangers,
friends, great trees and big seas breaking,
let love move me. Let me hear the whole music,
see clear, reach deep. Open me to find due words,
that I may shape them to ploughshares of my own making.

the late Philip Booth, Castine, Maine
(b. 1925 - nine books of poetry)

Responses always welcome - [Elizabeth Torrey](#)



Social Justice News

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 will be mailed on October 5th. 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!).



Postcard Writing at 14 Main:

Davalene Cooper will be hosting postcard writing for the midterm elections in the conference room at 14 Main on Saturday, September 19, 26, and October 3 from 9-11 a.m. All the materials will be provided so just bring yourself and have fun writing postcards in a group!

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=Lhb7zJzRw86k2jT9hy5LiO8iUzO8IG.1>.

Hingham Food Pantry:

We continue to collect food for the Hingham Food Pantry during our Sunday morning 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: **crackers, cookies, beef stew and jars of pasta sauce**. 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 on Friday, October 23 and 30:

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 pretzels, piece of fresh fruit, cookie, and water or juice.

Old Ship is responsible for the month of October; we have filled all but two of the dates: October 23 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!

Upcoming Events at the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry:

The Makanda Project Concert on Sep 12, 2026, from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM at the UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam St, Roxbury, MA. The Makanda Project is a 13-piece jazz ensemble formed to explore the previously unrecorded compositions of Makanda Ken McIntyre. The group is based in Boston, Massachusetts, (Makanda's hometown) and was started in 2005. Since then, the Makanda Project has been giving regular, self-produced free concerts in Boston's Roxbury neighborhood as well as performing outside of Boston – sharing what they believe is something unique and special about Makanda's music, and adding their own individual and collective voices to his compositions. In addition, the group has added music by other composers to its repertoire and entered into a variety of collaborations with other musicians as well as artists from other disciplines.

Sing Out Strong: Revolutionary Voices is a song series with lyrics by Indigenous poets on September 26, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM in the Roxbury Meetinghouse, 10 Putnam St, Boston, MA 02119. Sing Out Strong is a multi-year community-based project in which we reach out to ordinary people in our community and commission them to write texts on activist themes that resonate with them personally. For more information and to reserve tickets, go to [Sing Out Strong: Revolutionary Voices is a song series with lyrics by Indigenous poets | UUUM - Boston, MA](#).

Green Sanctuary Committee

Green Sanctuary invites you to community dinners for small groups, where people can get better acquainted by sharing conversations and meatless dishes. If you would like to welcome +/- six guests to dinner – or lunch -- in your home in late September or early October, please contact [Louise Smith](#) (781-690-1165). Dates and guest lists TBA.



Trans Parent and Caregiver Support Group Thursday, September 17th 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, September 1st 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 27th

4:00 - 5:30 p.m., Zoom Second and fourth Thursday afternoons

The Sacred Text meditation group completed its study of the Tao te Ching in July, a journey together of almost four (!) years. We have now begun a similar study of the Muslim holy book, The Qur'an. As we make the transition we would like to invite other members of the congregation to join us

This group is part of Old Ship's Life Learning program. We meet on Zoom from 4 to 5:30 on the second and fourth Thursdays of each month. We typically do a brief reading, then meditate for 10 minutes and then discuss the portion of the text we have selected. This group started our study of the Tao with no expertise of that text or its religion but had a wonderfully enriching experience together. We have begun our journey into the Qur'an similarly equipped and enthused.

If you would like more information about this please contact Rich Elliott at richelliott56@gmail.com or 781-812-8897

Saturday, September 12, 2026

Meeting House 2:00 PM

**Andrew Weissmann returns with guest
Jack Smith**



Andrew Weissmann and Jack Smith will be in conversation at the Old Ship Meeting House on Saturday, September 12 at 2:00 pm. Their timely topic is The Rule of Law in the United States. The choice of such an expansive topic promises an interesting and informative platform for a lively, hope-filled and informed afternoon.

Jack Smith was the Special Counsel at the Department of Justice (2022-2025) charged with investigating the transfer of power following the 2020 presidential election and the possible unlawful possession of highly classified documents. Prior to his appointment as Special Counsel, Mr. Smith led an international war crimes prosecutor's office based in The Hague.

Andrew Weissmann is a Professor of Practice at NYU Law School and a widely respected legal analyst on MS Now. He was a lead prosecutor in Robert Mueller's Special Counsel's Office, Chief of the Fraud Section in the Department of Justice, and general counsel of the FBI.

This program is free of charge, but reservations are required and seating is limited. Email host Mary Anne Donaldson at taytwin@gmail.com to be added to the entry list. You will receive a confirmation email that will serve as your ticket.

Scam Emails and Texts

**On Saturday (8/17/26) a scam text was sent
supposedly from Rev. Carie**

It stated:

Hi there, praying all is well with you today. If you have some time in your schedule, could I ask a quick favor of you?

Blessings,



Rev. Carie Johnsen

On Thursday, August 21st a scam email was sent supposedly from Turner Bledsoe asking for a Church Member Directory. I looked and the email did not come from Turner. It was another scam! Please do not share the directory.

DO NOT OPEN IT OR RESPOND!

The first thing I did was look at the sender's email address. It was not Carie's email address. Not even close!

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.

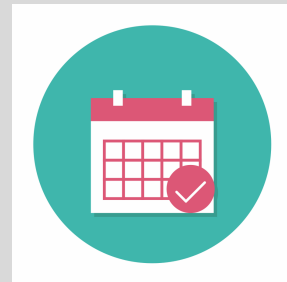
If a phone call, email or text seems weird or phishy, it probably is. Hang up immediately!

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



Upcoming Committee Meetings

- **Board Meeting** - Wednesday, September 9th, 5:30 p.m. . 14 Main/Zoom
- **Pastoral Care Team Meeting** - Tuesday, September 15th, 1:00 pm, 14 Main Parlor/Zoom

Office Hours

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

Week of August 31st: Tuesday-Thursday 9:00 AM-2:00 PM

Week of September 8th: Tuesday - Friday 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM



Have a happy, healthy Labor Day Weekend from your friends at Old Ship Church!

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