Social Justice Council News

Our next meeting is Saturday, November 21, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. The Zoom link is

https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83271105170?pwd=z46dFM3x7FYFMTgjz671Lf4mYbmq6u.1. (Passcode is 190951, if needed). Everyone is welcomed to be a member of the SJC! Just come to the meeting!

Special Outreach Offering for November: Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore (FHSS):

As we have each November in recent years, our outreach/special plate offering this month will be for Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore. Given the increase in the need to provide shelter for families without homes throughout the Commonwealth and on the South Shore, and the decrease in government funding, there is even more need this year to support this group that provides shelters and housing for families in our area. You may learn more about FHSS and its programs at **Home | Friends Of The Homeless**.

Donations can be made as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House, date TBA, or at anytime throughout the month 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. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world and helps our neighbors in need.

Additional Support for the Friends of the Homeless of the South Shore (FHSS):

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 in December, at a date and place still 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. More information will be forthcoming in a weekly newsletter. Right now, we need help with organizing. 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.

Social Justice Drop in Book Group on Sunday, November 15, at 7 p.m. on Zoom:

This month we will be discussing *The Great Contradiction: The Tragic Side of the American Founding* by Joseph J. Ellis. This book is described as an "astounding look at how America's founders—Washington, Jefferson, Franklin, Madison, Adams—regarded the issue of slavery as they drafted the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution. A daring and important work that ultimately reckons with the two great failures of America's founding: the failure to end slavery and the failure to avoid Indian removal." Ken Burns states this book "masterfully widen[s] our lens to tell a deeper, more complex, more accurate story of our founding."

The Zoom link is https://us06web.zoom.us/j/87270975159?pwd=Lhb7zJzRw86k2jT9hy5LiO8iUzO8IG.1. The passcode is 219708, if needed.

Hingham Food Pantry:

This month, we again send our condolences and love to all those who work at the food pantry as they continue the work without Susan Kiernan, Executive Director and Founder of the Hingham Food Pantry. Susan passed away in September and her death is a huge loss for both the food pantry and Hingham. This month, the food pantry is in need of the following items: ***crackers, cookies, cans of beef stew, and jars of pasta sauce.*** Please note that all donations need to be non-perishable, unopened and unexpired. Donations can be made on Sunday morning in the Meeting House and at 14 Main anytime the office is opened or when there is an event or meeting there.

Thanks to our members and friends who provided lunches for the Anderson Veterans House in Hingham in October:

Our Hingham 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, Davalene Cooper, Judi Flaherty, Chris Johnson, Meg Gibbons, Lisa Sawyer, and Louise Smith. Thanks for helping us with this project!

From Patti Smith: An Invitation to Join the Social Justice Council's Ministry of Sacred Reckonings

Carie, Ellie, and I are hoping that some of you in the congregation will be moved to join this ministry to explore Sacred Reckonings. Carie very eloquently spoke of our experience in Minneapolis in her message on October 11. If you were not present, please seek out the recording. Our time in Minneapolis was indeed transformative, and we are seeking out others who would like to join us in this ministry. We will move slowly, and our first goal will be to have one-on-one

conversations with people in the congregation to talk about the issues raised in the Document of Discovery.

Many of us feel shame about what our ancestors may have done regarding slavery, indigenous peoples, or others. As the Sacred Reckonings book states, we need to convert this shame to remorse, and the remorse to a commitment to begin to learn how to become GOOD ancestors. As ancestors in training, we will learn how forming relationships both inside and outside Old Ship, as well as truth telling, can START to teach us what we must learn from history. History does not HAVE to be stacked: we do not have to repeat past injustices. Little by little, changes can be made, but we must do it together. We certainly hope that you will join us!

Please let us know if you are interested in joining us. You can download the Sacred Reckonings pdf for free at **sacredreckonings.com**. Please feel free to contact any one of us. Ellie Handleman at **ellie@thehandlemans.org**, Carie Johnsen at **revcarie@oldshipchurch.org**, and Patti Smith at **patricia.smith@tufts.edu**