



UUUC SOCIAL JUSTICE newsletter

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Welcome to the new MONTHLY version of the Social Justice Newsletter. There is just too much going on to have only 6 issues a year. Now you get to enjoy 12!

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) declares May-Mental Health Awareness Month



Since its inception in 1949, Mental Health Awareness Month has been a cornerstone of addressing the challenges faced by millions of Americans living with mental health conditions. This year NAMI is celebrating with the [Take the Moment campaign](#). A campaign that encourages “you to join in fostering open dialogues, cultivating empathy and understanding. This campaign also champions the importance of destigmatizing mental health by normalizing the practice of taking moments to prioritize mental health care without guilt or shame.”

But what does this have to do with social justice? Well, insurance companies still have inadequate plans to cover all the different types of mental health services, patients who identify as LGBTQ or who wish to work with counselors who represent their diversity cannot find providers, people who suffer with mental illnesses fill jails and prisons not getting the treatment they need, and communities’ budgets are eliminating some of the key services that people need to have a successful recovery. There is much work to be done in mental health system reform on many different levels. The easiest way to start is to take a moment for your mental health, tell people it is a priority, and encourage them to do the same.



For more information on how mental health is a social justice issue and resources go to: [National NAMI](http://nami.org) [nami.org] OR [WI NAMI](http://namiwisconsin.org) [namiwisconsin.org] OR [Waukesha County NAMI](http://namisoutheastwi.org) [namisoutheastwi.org]

If you or someone you know is in crisis, please contact the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline—call or text 988 or use the chat feature at 988lifeline.org

Do U know about the UU Mental Health Network?

In 2018 several individual UUs interested in mental health started meeting and jointly decided that the time was right to form a Unitarian Universalist Mental Health Network to work collectively on mental health challenges that affect congregations and society at large. The Mission: To empower the Beloved Community in honoring each individual’s unique mental health journey towards wellness. The UUMHN “*envisions a world where the Beloved Community: is a place where all members feel welcomed, understood, and held in love; engages in respectful curiosity to understand emotional distress; welcomes open, authentic, and fearless sharing about mental health; and passionately commits to mental health justice.*” To see the full Covenant, video on the focus areas, information on how to join, and resources, go to <https://www.uumentalhealth.org/>



Restructuring the Social Justice Council

No separate Teams, but the Mission remains the same.



During the first few Social Justice Council meetings it became clear that in planning projects and events many of the issues encompassed the work of more than just one Team. Next, there was concern events' dates and times may overlap, prohibiting members from attending activities. Then came the issue of volunteer burnout and splitting the interests of members if they "had to choose a Team." Finally, trying to split the resources and financial support may make certain projects impossible. Therefore, it was decided that the Social Justice Council would be one Team with focus areas on the topics covered by each previous team.

The Council's purpose and mission reads as such: The Social Justice Council is a consortium of members and consolidation of work to create a strategic approach to meeting the needs of the community, providing education & engagement, and coordinating efforts to create larger community change by being good stewards of time, talent, and financial support.

Instead of having separate teams with separate meetings, all participants will meet once a month to ensure consolidation is occurring. With one meeting we can better plan activities that take into consideration all sides of the issues and share resources more effectively. The work will still focus on the following areas: Advocacy, Anti-Racism (ARC), Social Action, and building a Welcoming Congregation for members who identify as LGBTQIA2s. Moreover, we will continue to track local, regional, state, and national issues. We are committed to offer a wide range of ways to get involved and recognize the benefits of combining our work with social justice partners to make a greater impact in a Beloved Community.

Everyone is welcome! There is no level of required commitment—you may participate in projects that suit you best in the time available to you. Bring your passion, ideas and dedication!

Contact the Social Justice Council by sending an email to the UUUC office at office@uniteduuc.org

Join Us! All are Welcome!

The Council meets on the first Sunday of each month from 12pm-1:30pm after service in the Sanctuary.

Next meetings are May 5 and June 2, 2024.

The Social Justice Council will be holding a **Strategic Planning meeting in August 2024** to plan events and projects for the 2024-2025 church year. If interested in participating contact

Adele Revoy (adele.revoy@gmail.com) for details.

ALL ARE WELCOME!



*As people of faith and members of UUUC who put justice as a core value, we possess **the glow of love, the fire of commitment and the light of truth** to help us sustain our work.*

The SOCIAL JUSTICE COUNCIL at UUUC is a consortium of members and consolidation of work to create a strategic approach to meeting the needs of the community, providing education & engagement, and coordinating efforts to create larger community change by being good stewards of time, talent, and financial support. The Council's work focuses on the following areas: Advocacy, Anti-Racism (ARC), Social Action, and building a Welcoming Congregation for members who identify as LGBTQIA2s

Feedback on this newsletter is welcomed and appreciated. Send all ideas to Adele Revoy, SJ Council Lead, adele.revoy@gmail.com

ADVOCACY

ACTIONS TO MAKE SYSTEM CHANGE



UU the Vote 2024

BUILDING FOR THE LONG HAUL

Congregations and members across the country are preparing, organizing and implementing the UU the Vote 2024 campaign.

This year five states have been designated as “BUILDING FOR THE LONG HAUL”: Michigan, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, Texas, and WISCONSIN. This means that UU the Vote trainings, leadership opportunities and additional communications with the State Action Networks will continue to create momentum, build power, and organize for impact.

Five states have been identified as “WIN ON THE ISSUES”: Arizona, Colorado, Florida, Georgia and Idaho. Coordinated campaigns with the State Action Networks in Arizona, Colorado and Florida will work to protect and expand access to abortion care. In Georgia, the work focuses on Stop Cop City and police militarization. And in Idaho, efforts are being made to push back on white supremacists and expand the electorate.

Each of you are encouraged to read the [2024 Launch Guide](#), watch the [videos](#), and get [active](#).

If you are feeling a restlessness that you need to do more, consider organizing an education day or help facilitate a project. Contact the Social Justice Council to share your idea!

Find resources from UU the Vote 2024 at <https://uuthevote.org/recording-and-resources-getting-started-with-uu-the-vote>

SOCIAL ACTION

MAKING AN IMPACT

Through recent donations of time, talent and treasure, our members made a significant impact in April! *thank you!*

- ♥ Over 100 bagged lunches were prepared by loving hands for the residents of the MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary in Milwaukee. (picture on p.4)
- ♥ Collection of toilet paper, paper towels and hygiene products took over Rev. David’s bathroom. (picture on p.4)
- ♥ Coats are still coming...239 coats, 32 pairs of boots & shoes, 10 snowpants, 25 bags of gloves, hats, scarves, and 35 clean and pressed shirts from a local dry cleaner collected for the Hope Center.

MAY CONGREGATIONAL

PROJECT : Help get out the vote by postcarding for “Reclaim Our Vote” with the UUA partner organization [Center for Common Ground](#). State of Virginia is the focus for May 2024 and summer will be North Carolina, Georgia, Florida and more. Also, we are looking into Letter Writing with UUA partner organization [Vote Forward](#). They have 7 social campaigns and 11 political campaigns we could write for.



Look for more information and supplies in the next couple of weeks! Please let us know about any local writing campaigns by contacting the Social Justice Council.



Postcard samples from Reclaim Our Vote



ARC

ANTI-RACIST CHANGE

UUUC members have made a deliberate intention of learning about white privilege and acting in ways to combat the continuation of this oppressing system. As UUs we have resources through the national UUA to help with [decentering whiteness](#) in our worship services, [programs for anti-racist multicultural congregational change](#) in our work, [organizing for racial justice](#) in our communities, and many more. [uua.org/justice]

But we know there are so many local and regional resources that are also important to our work. Partners we seek to learn from, listen to their lived experiences, and understand the impact white supremacy has had on their lives. Let us know if you have an organization, resource, or person who we should connect with as we build a series of events for the summer and next church year. Better yet, join us!



Thank you to the sandwich makers!
100 bagged lunches for [MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary](#) were prepared by loving hands after service on April 28, 2024.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION

ALL ARE WELCOME

UUUC continues to be a Welcoming Congregation in words and deeds, with many hugs thrown in between. Help us get ready to celebrate **June-National PRIDE month**.

Start with checking out the resources on UUA [“LGBTQ Welcome & Equality”](#) [uua.org/lgbtq] webpage. Then connect with a local organization to find out what is going on in this area. Finally, commit to doing something in June to show your support and PRIDE—wear a pin, write a letter, display a flag, attend an event or coordinate an activity.



If you would like to host or help with a Congregational Project, contact the Social Justice Council.

Look for forthcoming information on how UUUC is celebrating PRIDE month and our progress in the renewal process for being a Welcoming Congregation.



Rev. David's bathroom

Keep the products coming!
Bags and boxes of items were delivered to MacCanon Brown Homeless Sanctuary in Milwaukee. **May and June is the time to give to the Waukesha Food Pantry! So pick up an extra roll!**

Diversity is being invited to the party;
inclusion is being asked to dance.
– Verna Myers