

Serving Others News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)



What can you do to learn more about how Climate Change and White Supremacy Culture are

Connected? — We are asking the congregation to engage in an “all church” read of a book that clearly connects these two issues that we have been focusing on as part of our social justice work. The book is *Climate Change is Racist: Race, Privilege and the Struggle for Climate Justice* by Jeremy Williams. The author argues that climate change “is structurally racist, disproportionately caused by majority White people in majority White countries, with the damage unleashed overwhelmingly on people of colour.” This is a short, 163 page book and our hope is that many of you will read it and then gather with us in small groups to talk about it around Martin Luther King’s birthday in January. More details about those conversations will be in the January newsletter.

December Special Plate Collection: Unitarian Universalist Service Committee’s Guest at Your Table Program

— Guest at Your Table (GAYT) is UUSC’s annual intergenerational program to raise support for and awareness about key human rights issues. Since UUSC works in more than 20 countries, with over 50 grassroots partners, there are thousands of individuals involved in and who benefit from the work that our members make possible. The program is an opportunity to celebrate grassroots partnership, support human rights, and learn about just four of these individuals—the “guests” in Guest at Your Table. The theme of this year’s GAYT program is Pursuing Liberation. The alarming rise of fascism, authoritarianism, and nationalism in the United States and in many places around the world is putting the lives of people, and the sustainability of the planet, in critical danger. These far-right forces have co-opted the word “freedom” for their own purposes, but the concepts of liberation and freedom mean something very tangible to UUSC’s grassroots partners in communities the world over. Whether they are fighting for the right to seek safety in Mexico and the United States, convincing the UN’s International Court of Justice to address the human rights threatened by the climate crisis in the South Pacific, or replenishing the energy of human rights activists in eastern Europe by addressing burn-out, UUSC partners invite us into an expansive, regenerative space to pursue liberation..

Throughout December, we will learn more about this year’s guests, but you also can learn more about them through the Stories of Hope book, available online at <https://www.uusc.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/09/UUUSC-GAYT-23-24-Stories-of-Hope-Booklet.pdf>.

Donations can be made in a variety of ways this month. You may make your donation as part of the December 2 nd special plate collection in the Meeting House. You may make your donation online through the Old Ship website. Click

the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: UUSC Guest at Your Table. Finally, you may make your donation directly to UUSC at the following site:

<https://donate.uusc.org/give/75595#!/donation/checkout>. If you make your donation directly to UUSC, please make sure to indicate you are part of the First Parish in Hingham, Old Ship Church congregation. That way your donation will be included as part of our monthly outreach offering. Thanks in advance for your support of this important work that puts our values out into the world.

Many thanks to the congregation for the donations in October for the Hingham Food Pantry. We sent a check for \$910.79 to the food pantry this past month. They will be able to use those funds to purchase more than \$2700 of food for their clients. Thanks to our community for this generous donation!

Hingham Food Pantry — We collect food each week for the Hingham Food Pantry. Please leave your donations in the bins located in the vestibule of the Meeting House and at 14 Main Street. Items especially needed this month include the following: Pasta Sauce, Pasta, Mac & Cheese, Healthy Cereal, Grape or Strawberry Jelly, Rice, and Cookies. Also, as another way to donate food, the box for donations is back at the front of Stop and Shop in Hingham!

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group — We do not meet in December; our next meeting is Sunday, January 21. All are welcome to join us in January as we discuss *Weathering: The Extraordinary Stress of Ordinary Life in an Unjust Society* by Arline T. Geronimus. The author “coined the term ‘weathering’ to describe the effects of systemic oppression—including racism and classism—on the body....Based on more than 30 years of research, she argues that health and aging have more to do with how society treats us than how well we take care of ourselves.”

News from the UU Urban Ministry —

Community Conversations: This year, the theme for community conversations is how housing has contributed to racial inequity, especially in Boston. These conversations will examine various aspects of this topic, including public housing, affordable housing, and new models of housing. The next conversation, **A Long Road Home: Roots of Homeownership Inequity is on Tuesday, December 12, 2023, from 6:00pm - 7:00pm.** This program will explore affordable home ownership programs in Massachusetts. The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81191027113>.

Holiday Gift Shopping? Consider supporting a Roxbury-based artist of color through the UUUM's Directory of Artists, which can be downloaded or viewed at [Arts and Humanities Programming | Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry \(uuum.org\)](https://uuum.org). This is an opportunity to peruse and purchase some incredible local art while supporting artists of color.

Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network — Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network to find out about specific advocacy opportunities such as letter writing, advocacy calls, and participating in educational and advocacy events with local legislators. Send your email address to [Davalene Cooper](#), Keeper of the List.