

Serving Others

News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)



All Church Read: How are Climate Change and White Supremacy Culture Connected? — We are asking the congregation to engage in an “all church” read of a book that 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 later in January or early February. More details about the timing of these conversations will be forthcoming.

January Special Plate Collection: Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry’s Renewal House Shelter —Renewal House operates within a network of organizations providing safe, confidential shelter and healing services to those fleeing violence. Residents of the shelter receive counseling and support services throughout their stay at the shelter. Additionally, staff help those residents who are looking for permanent housing. Renewal House is unique in that it continues to support former residents long after they move on from shelter through individual services and group events. We at Old Ship have supported Renewal House for many years. In operation since 1980, Renewal House was one of the first domestic violence shelters in the state to provide shelter for male survivors, and now works closely with programs across Greater Boston to bring culturally-responsive and LGBTQ-inclusive advocacy and counseling to those it serves.

Donations can be made in one of two ways this month. You may make your donation as part of the special plate collection in the Meeting House, date still to be determined. You may make your donation online through the Old Ship website. Click the donate button and then designate your donation for the Outreach Offering: UUUM Renewal House.

Anti-Racism/Social Justice Drop-in Book Group — All are welcome to join us at 7 p.m. on January 21 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.” Here is the Zoom link for the meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/82223006942?pwd=aw5JRGgHNWEogDuMXFzK0aUjCx5jWr.1>.

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 Side Dishes, and Cookies. Also, as another way to donate food, there is a box for donations at the front of the Stop and Shop in Hingham.

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. The January Conversation is The Right to Stay with David Harris. David recently retired as Managing Director of the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice and has extensive experience in many facets of civil rights issues. He was the founding Executive Director of the Fair Housing Center of Greater Boston and currently chairs the Massachusetts Advisory Committee to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. This virtual event will take place on Tuesday, January 16, 2023, from 6:00pm - 7:00pm. Here is the Zoom link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82881458320>

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](mailto:Davalene.Cooper@oldship.org), Keeper of the List.