

Social Justice News

Feeding Others – Supporting the Hingham Food Pantry

Background: The Monthly Feeding Others food collections for the Hingham food pantry have not been working for our congregation. The contributions have fallen, and in fact, most of the food we donate to the food pantry is coming from the AA Groups who meet here and bring food for our collection basket in the vestibule. Another issue has been the feedback from some in the congregation that they do not care for the “no food” coffee hours. And in fact, that has not always worked. So we are considering a few changes and would appreciate hearing your feedback about the following ideas:

- Food collection stays once a month, but bring a specific item the Food Pantry has requested.
- Food collection once a month, as above, but held during a regular coffee hour with snacks.
- No specific food collection dates, but encourage people to bring food and put in the boxes in the vestibule of both the meeting and parish houses, and SJC will still take the food to the food pantry. Bring an item every time you come to church for a meeting, a class, or on Sunday morning.
- We will continue with our once a year food collection drive at Stop and Shop.

June Food Collection for the Hingham Food Pantry, a pilot of one of the above ideas-

Sunday June 3rd, Please bring boxed Mac and Cheese to donate: Any brand, any size of Mac and Cheese packages

Remember, if you are unable to bring non-perishable foods to donate, cash donations are always welcome.

Supporting the Hingham Food Pantry over the Summer

During the summer months the Food Pantry continues to need food donations for the 175 local families who use the pantry. You can leave donations of non-perishable foods in the following locations:

- **Leave donations in the box in the vestibule of Parish House**
- **Leave donations in the large box at the main entrance of the Stop and Shop, Lincoln Plaza on Rt 3A.**
- **Leave donations at Conway Realty, Main Street, Hingham**

Interested in advocating for vulnerable populations?

The Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network sends out alerts when it would be particularly helpful to contact our local and national elected officials, especially during budget negotiations. We also send out notices of advocacy days, state or national, and other opportunities to advocate for those populations particularly at risk in our current times. In the past year, we sent out about 25 such alerts, so if you would like to be on this list, we do not overwhelm you with emails. Our focus is on when we can take actions to advocate for vulnerable populations. How do you get on the list? Just send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at: davalenecooper@verizon.net. Currently, we have about 35 Old Shippers on the list.

Sign up for the Old Ship Social Justice Action Alert Network. Send your email address to Davalene Cooper, Keeper of the List, at davalenecooper@verizon.net.

Green Sanctuary

The exciting news from Green Sanctuary is that we have a formal plan and application for Re-Accreditation of our Green Sanctuary Program in the UUA's recently invigorated program. At our last Social Justice Council noon luncheon, Laura Burns reviewed the history and good works of our current Green Sanctuary Group/350MA affiliated group to test the enthusiasm and solicit ideas for a plan to seek re-accreditation. The result was a wide spectrum of environmental focus and interest and a clear consensus that we should develop such a plan. The SJC reviewed and refined Laura Burn's follow up draft and has approved the final application – which has now been received by the UUA! (A copy will be posted on our Website).

The plan proposes: Continuing our support of the 350MA Node and its action and legislative work to fight global warming; Continuing support of Weymouth residents (FRRACS) fight against the pipeline compressor station; Supporting Old Ship's plan to build a "net zero emission" new parish house; launching a new project "Parish Education to Action" which is envisioned to test and find new ways to interest, educate, and draw in and learn from our parishioners the many ways all individuals can contribute to the growing campaign to fight dangerous global warming; and finally: Establishing an Adult education class on the biblical roots for climate change activism. The program will begin in September and we expect the UUA will give us the green light to give it a go.

We hope you will join us in great numbers!

Questions? Contact Turner Bledsoe turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net

The 350MA.org members lead twice monthly meetings on Tuesday evenings in the Parish Hall to explore and plan for actions to challenge climate change in our area. Next meeting May 1st at 7pm.

Contact Connie Gorfinkle connieg1233@gmail.com and Turner Bledsoe for information turnerbledsoe1@verizon.net

Next SJC meeting, Saturday September 15th at 9am in the Parlor

Everyone is welcome to join us at our planning meetings to propose new social justice actions or support ongoing ones. Contact Brenda Black (blackpollara@verizon.net) or Kate Philbin (kate.philbin4@gmail.com) if you have any questions.