

## **Social Justice Council (SJC) News for March 2020**

### **March 22 is UUSC Justice Sunday with a focus on Immigration Justice**

**Guest Preacher:** Heather Vickery from UU Service Committee (UUSC)

**Social Justice Plate Collection for United We Dream**, the largest youth-led immigrant organization in the country “working to empower people to develop their leadership, their organizing skills, and campaigns to fight for justice and dignity for immigrants and all people”.

**Soup Lunch and Forum on what you can do to protect immigrants in the United States under TPS (Temporary Protected Status)** Hundreds of thousands of immigrant community members are facing deportation from their homes and separation from their loved ones due to the pending termination of Temporary Protected Status (TPS). For decades, TPS has provided safety for more than 400,000 people from countries facing war, natural disasters, and other deadly conditions. Now, the Trump administration is exposing these individuals to being sent to countries they left decades ago, and to being removed from their children, hundreds of thousands of whom are U.S. citizens.

Regardless of what the administration or the courts do next, there is only one long-term solution for TPS holders. The Senate must take up and pass legislation that has already been approved in the House, which would create a pathway to citizenship for immigrants with TPS and similar statuses, including Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) and Deferred Enforced Departure (DED).

While we eat lunch, we will view a short film made by children in Boston explaining how their lives are affected by threats to end TPS. We will then discuss this issue with Heather Vickery from the UUSC. And finally, we will each have an opportunity to write postcards to our Senators on this issue.

### **Leadership Needed for the Green Sanctuary Program at Old Ship**

For the past two years, Laura Burns and Turner Bledsoe have provided leadership for our Green Sanctuary Program. Unfortunately, Laura and Turner both have had to step away from leading this work as they are providing leadership to other Hingham and South Shore Climate Change organizations. We want to thank both of them for their work on starting the process for Old Ship to be reaccredited as a Green Sanctuary congregation. And to the extent there is overlap between their other work and Green Sanctuary, they will keep us informed.

We are at the point where we need to submit our final report to be reaccredited. Carol Valentine and Louise Smith have agreed to draft the final report—thank you Carol and Louise!

Going forward, however, we are looking for new leadership for Green Sanctuary. There are many aspects to the Green Sanctuary program— making sure our buildings at Old Ship are as green as possible, recycling issues and working to reduce our carbon footprint to address climate change. If this sounds like something you, or a group of you, would like to do, or to learn more about what is required, please contact Brenda Black or Davalene Cooper.

### **Serving Others by Supporting the Hingham Food Pantry**

The SJC invites you to continue to Serve Others by **bringing a non-perishable food item for the Hingham Food Pantry whenever you come to Old Ship**. There is a collection basket in

the vestibule of the Meeting House each Sunday to receive your donation. The collection box in the outer vestibule of the Parish House is also available to accept donations when you come for classes or meetings or anytime.

The Pantry requests the following **most needed foods in March**:

Dinty Moore Beef Stew  
Chef Boyardee canned pastas  
Crackers  
Cookies  
Grape or strawberry jam  
Regular ground coffee

## **Should Old Ship sponsor and support an asylum seeker?**

### **What would this require?**

The Social Justice Council is beginning to consider whether we should participate in a UUSC program where congregations support an asylum seeker in their community. This action would require us to provide housing and other assistance to an asylum seeker while he or she awaits final resolution of his or her claim. We will be providing opportunities for the congregation to consider this opportunity over the next few months. The details related to this program are found in a handbook, available at the following link:

<http://uucsj.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Congregational-Sponsorship-Handbook.pdf>

## **UUSC Gives Three Awards to Old Ship**

The latest UUSC Annual Report includes the following awards for Old Ship for the last fiscal year: Creating Justice Banner Award (25-50% of the congregation are UUSC members), James Luther Adams (a budgeted gift to UUSC of at least \$1 per member, funds received through the annual Christmas Eve offering at Old Ship), and a special recognition award for Guest at Your Table (total gift of more than \$5000).

Thanks to everyone for their support of UUSC!

## **Special Plate Collections Update**

Thanks for your contributions to our December and January special plate collections. We collected \$4,123.73 for the UUSC Guest at Your Table Program. And we collected \$604.57 for our January collection to Mass Climate Action Network.

## **UU Urban Ministry (UUUM)**

### **Support our partner the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute**

The UUUM will host our third annual gathering in support of our partner the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute at an Interfaith Prayer and Planning Breakfast on Wednesday, March 4. We are looking for lay and ordained leaders of UU congregations interested in supporting the Institute's Mother's Day Walk for Peace to join us and begin preparing for the walk. The breakfast is free, and RSVPs (to [engagement@uum.org](mailto:engagement@uum.org)) are required.

### **April School Vacation Childcare Volunteers Needed**

Beyond Believe in Success' regular classroom volunteer needs, we are in search of volunteers to provide childcare and child-centered activities during April vacation (9 am to 2 pm, April 20-24). Priority will be given to prospective volunteers who can be available for the whole week (though they do not need to do both). All childcare volunteers must be 18 years or older, training will be offered, and CORI/SORI checks will be run. We don't yet know the age make-up of the children of our incoming Believe in Success class, but will have that information available soon. If you're interested in learning more about becoming a childcare volunteer, please email us at [volunteer@uum.org](mailto:volunteer@uum.org).

### **Interested in advocating for vulnerable communities?**

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

### **Coffeehouse Off the Square, March 21, 2020 features Chris and Meredith Thompson. Open Microphone at 7:30 p.m. Show at 8 p.m.**

Best known for the unique blend of their nearly identical voices, these twin sisters weave vocals, flute, guitar, and percussion together - creating a sound that is genuine, beautiful, and moving, while celebrating common experience through song. They are also great fun. For more information about them, go to their website at <https://www.cmthompson.com/>

Remember the profits of the coffeehouse benefit UUSC, so this is a fun way to support our social justice values! And the coffeehouse can always use more volunteers—see Eric Cornetta or John Leonard to volunteer. (And volunteers are admitted to the concerts for free!)

### **Interested in helping plan Social Justice Actions for our congregation?**

You are welcome at any Social Justice Council meeting to talk with us about your ideas of how Old Ship can Serve Others. Look for announcements of the February SJC meeting date in the Order of Service. Contact Brenda Black [blackpollara@verizon.net](mailto:blackpollara@verizon.net) or Davalene Cooper [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net)