

## Serving Others

### News from the Social Justice Council (SJC)

***Next Meeting is Saturday, March 18, at 9 a.m. on Zoom. If you are not an SJC member and would like to join us for the meeting, contact [Davalene Cooper](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net), at [davalenecooper@verizon.net](mailto:davalenecooper@verizon.net), for the Zoom link. All are welcome!***

**March's Special Plate Collection is for the Unaccompanied Minor Program through the International Institute of New England** — This year, the International Institute of New England (IINE) is expanding its program to aid unaccompanied children as they arrive in the United States through the U.S. asylum system, which will allow it to double the number of children in its care. This Unaccompanied Children's program helps connect mostly Central American children forced to migrate because of violence, poverty, and deprivation in home countries with relatives or family ties in the U.S. while providing intensive trauma care, case management services, and professional support. The IINE program serves more than 300 children annually and will expand the number of children served, add deeper support, and expand the geographic reach of services. We have supported IINE in the past, but this is the first time we have supported this specific program.

Although the special plate in the Meeting House will be on Sunday, March 5, donations are accepted throughout the month of February [online](#) through the Old Ship website by designating your donation to IINE or by sending your check to the church office, payable to Old Ship, with IINE designated on the memo line. Thank you in advance for your donations.

**Food Donations for the Hingham Food Pantry** — We continue to collect food donations for the Hingham Food Pantry each week in the Meeting House; there is a basket in the vestibule for donations. ***Donations may also be made at the Hingham Stop and Shop (large bin at the front of the store).*** The food pantry only accepts non-perishable, unopened, and unexpired food. Although all donations are appreciated, the following items are among the most needed at this time: Cookies, Jarred Pasta Sauce, Canned Beef Stew, Cheese or Peanut Butter Cracker Sandwiches, and Granola Bars.

**Special Plate Report from January** — Thanks to all who contributed to our January special plate in support of Renewal House, a domestic violence shelter run by the UU Urban Ministry. We collected a total of \$1771.81. On another note, our Christmas Eve Service offering was divided among three groups; the UU Urban Ministry, Father Bill's/Mainspring, and UUSC each received \$534.

**Anti-Racism/Social Justice Book Group meeting on March 19 at 7 p.m. on Zoom** — Our March book is *The Other Side of Prospect: A Story of Violence, Injustice, and the American City*, by Nicholas Dawidoff. This book focuses on inequality, race, class, and violence, as it tells the story of a murder in New Haven, CT. Here is the Zoom link for the March meeting: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84810976357>.

**Upcoming Event at the UU Urban Ministry — Community Conversations: Policing in Schools: How it affects young people and contributes to the racial wealth gap.** Presented by Roxbury Youth Program's Interns and sponsored by: First Parish Milton. Be a part of this discussion that will look at the school to prison pipeline, and how police brutality affects young people of color on a social and emotional level, which they then take with them into adulthood. To join this Zoom event, go to <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82234022986>

**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.

**UU Mass Action Advocacy Day 2023--Save the Date! Tuesday, March 28** — This is a day where UU's come together in community and act on our values by meeting with legislators about critical statewide policies around our five core issue areas: Decarceration and Economic, Climate, Indigenous, and Immigrant Justice. [Sign up here](#) to stay tuned on when registration opens for our UU Mass Action Advocacy Day!