

# Social Justice Update



## Share the Plate - Project Feed

Each week, we share one third of our offering with a local nonprofit to show our support for organizations whose work furthers the values expressed in our denomination's foundation of love. We hope that Share the Plate will also bring a greater awareness to the community of Allen Avenue UU Church and Unitarian-Universalist values.

## Links

### Positive News of the Month



Business creating onion skin packaging to reduce waste



### Podcast of the Month

**Happy Place** is a new destination for all - where difference is celebrated and the extraordinary is discovered. This is a place to connect, to listen to the most interesting minds on the planet, and engage with the conversation.

**EQME**  
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RIGHTS

[https://  
www.equalitymaine.org/  
/protectyourrights/](https://www.equalitymaine.org/protectyourrights/)



## SJC MONTHLY MEETING

January 22th at 7PM via Zoom

Go to Breeze or contact: [Julie Harrison  
\(julielyn.harrison@gmail.com\)](mailto:julielyn.harrison@gmail.com)



## GIVING TREE

The Social Justice Committee members and Greater Portland Family Promise staff and volunteers appreciate all of you who donated gifts to children of asylum seeking families this year. Tags were chosen from the Giving Tree in one day at the Artisans Fair!

**Thank you for your generosity!**



**Jim with Esther**



**Giving Tree gift delivery to First Parish Congregational Church in Gorham. Pictured: Mary Michals of A2U2 and Sandrine, caseworker for Family Promise.**

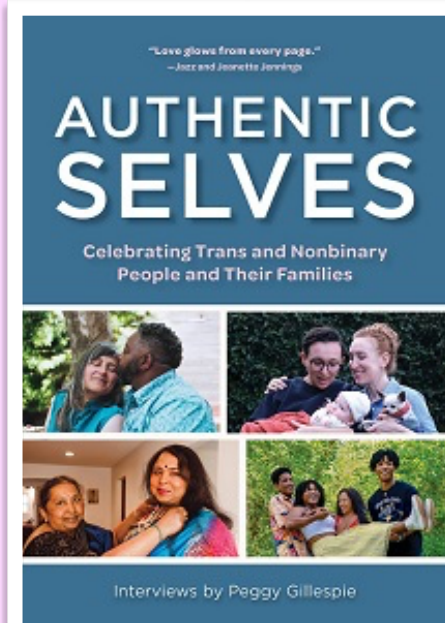
## 2025 COMMON READ

Groundbreaking in its depictions of joy and community, *Authentic Selves* celebrates trans and nonbinary people and their families in stunning photographs and their own words. Foreword by Jazz and Jeanette Jennings. A2U2 will focus on reflection, learning, and action.

Books will be available after service in the foyer beginning January 5th, \$17. FMI contact Julie Harrison, [julielynharrison@gmail.com](mailto:julielynharrison@gmail.com)

The meetings will be two 90 minute sessions either in person or on Zoom.

- **In Person: February 2 and 16th** from 11:15-1pm
- **On Zoom: February 9 and 23rd** from 1:30-3pm

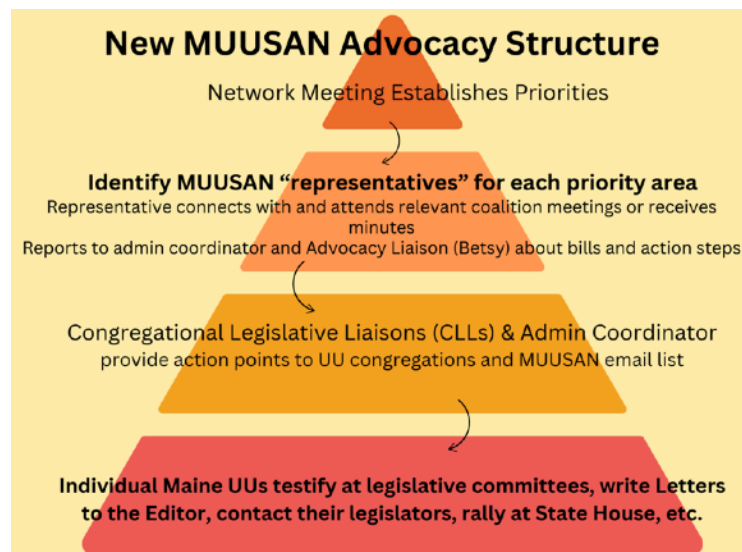




The latest MUUSAN network meeting took place December 8th, with wide attendance by UUs across Maine. MUUSAN board members unveiled a new, exciting structure for the network this year.

In the past, MUUSAN was organized around "Action Teams". Teams required very committed co-chairs and members, who were tasked with identifying priority bills, coordinating across MUUSAN, advocating to the legislature, and attending LOTS of meetings! Meanwhile, MUUSAN has collaborated with partner organizations and coalitions that are doing much of the same advocacy work, but with more focus and dedicated resources.

This year, MUUSAN is reorganizing to take the weight off of Action Team participation, and instead find dedicated representatives for each MUUSAN priority area to liaise between these partner organizations and MUUSAN. Representatives will be responsible for reporting back on priority bills, action items, and upcoming advocacy needs to MUUSAN, who will then utilize each congregation's existing Legislative Liaison to funnel that information to the churches.



### What's Next?

The next MUUSAN meeting is in early January, to hone MUUSAN's key priorities and partner representatives. To attend, keep an eye on <https://www.muusan.org/> or reach out to [admin@muusan.org](mailto:admin@muusan.org)

MUUSAN is particularly seeking representatives focused on housing issues and protecting vulnerable communities. If this is you, reach out to Betsy Williams at [bwilliams120@gmail.com](mailto:bwilliams120@gmail.com)

Stay tuned for action alerts in our own A2U2 Newsletter as the legislative session gets underway!

Below are links to the recording and documents from the December meeting.

- [Video Recording of Dec 8 2024 MUUSAN Network Meeting](#)
- [MUUSAN's Past & Future Advocacy Structure](#)
- [Current Partners and Coalitions](#)
- [Social Change Ecosystem Framework](#)
- [Potential 2025 Priorities](#)
- [Donate to MUUSAN](#)



## TOWN HALL JANUARY 14TH

Join us on Tuesday, January 14, at 4pm, for the first in a series of online "town hall" gatherings to discuss ways Maine's communities of faith can be prepared to respond when vulnerable groups are targeted by the new administration.

We will focus specifically on effective strategies for 4 especially vulnerable groups: immigrants, LGBTQ folks, women seeking reproductive health care, and the environment.

Registration for this free online by clicking [this link](https://form.jotform.com/243457614435156) (<https://form.jotform.com/243457614435156>).



God is asking, "Whom shall I send?"

# HERE WE ARE. SEND US!

Sharing resources for  
a faithful response to threats of harm

FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC  
Tuesday, January 14  
4:00 pm - 5:00 pm On-line

Topics of Discussion

- Effective strategies for 4 especially vulnerable groups
- Immigrants, LGBTQ folks, women seeking reproductive health care, and the environment

All attendees must register in order to receive a zoom link

Maine Council of Churches  
Inspiring peace, justice, & compassion through collaborative action



## LGBTQIA+ RESOURCES

Equality Maine has put together a full set of resources and information on their [Protect Your Rights](https://www.equalitymaine.org/protectyourrights/) page (<https://www.equalitymaine.org/protectyourrights/>)

Additionally, they've been working with some of their partners to compile a selection of helpful resources:

- [Glad.org: How-to Guide: Confirmatory Adoption in Maine](#)
- [Glad.org: Rights of LGBTQ+ Students in Maine](#)
- [LGBTMap.org: Movement Advancement Project: LGBTQ+ Rights and Protections by State](#)
- [Glad.org: How-to Guide: Changing Gender Markers and Names](#)

- [MaineTransNet: Vital Document Update Information](#)
- [MaineTransNet: Vital Document Update Clinics](#)

To stay informed about future webinars, events, and updates, we encourage you to sign up for our newsletter here.



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## SIGN UP FOR UPDATES

(<https://www.equalitymaine.org/newsletter/>)