

# Social Justice Update

Love is at the center of all of our values. Love is the power that holds us together.



Art by A2U2 RE Students  
From The Handy Guide to Shared Values  
 By Emily C. Jones

## FRIDAY AFTERNOON CALLS FOR ACTION

Friday 2-3 PM at Church

Rooms 7 & 9

FMI email: [Julie Harrison](#)

## NEXT SJC MEETING

April 29th at 7PM via Zoom

For Zoom link go to Breeze or contact: [Julie Harrison](#)

## MAINE IN THE NEWS

As concerns grow over the global expansion of data centers driven by an unprecedented surge in demand for computing power, it may be worth looking to rural Maine.



## MOMENT OF FOOD JOY

50 PIES, 50 STATES

An Immigrant's Love Letter to the United States Through Pie

## Portland Trails

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.

Portland Trails build and maintain a trail network for residents and visitors of Greater Portland to use and enjoy all year long. We believe that trails can transform our community.

Whether you explore a new trail, spend a morning volunteering with us, or join our growing membership, you're helping make this vision a reality.



## APRIL COMMUNITY TRAIL WALK: SAWYER MARSH

**Saturday, April 18, 2026**  
**9:00 AM 10:00 AM**

The goal of our Community Trail Walks is to foster community and promote connections between people and nature. Led by South Portland Land Trust Board members, the

walks will encourage individuals and families to enjoy casual walks on our trails with other community members. Given the documented benefits of walking, and appreciating the beauty and peacefulness of nature, these walks can promote a sense of well-being and mindfulness.

## GREATER PORTLAND FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

As we move into a busy spring season, we wanted to take a moment to look back on a challenging couple of months. In February, our community faced a significant surge in ICE activity that instilled fear in the families we serve.

You met that moment with incredible compassion. When the need was greatest, you stepped up. Because of your rapid support, we were able to provide emergency legal support, rental assistance, and food. While we are relieved to share that the initial surge has subsided, the reality of this work remains heavy. Just two weeks ago, a father from one of the families we work with was picked up by ICE, a heartbreaking reminder of the ongoing instability these families face.

**GFPF invites you to join us at these upcoming events to celebrate the resilience of our community and continue building support for the Family Promise "family."**

### OLD TIME MUSIC AND CONTRA DANCE

**Saturday, April 11 | 6:30 PM - 8:00 PM**

Trinity Episcopal Church 580 Forest Ave, Portland

Put on your dancing shoes! A fun-filled evening of music and dancing for all ages. Admission is \$5 per person and \$15 per family of three or more. All proceeds from the event go to Greater Portland Family Promise.

### "ACCOMPANIMENT" ELCA EVENT

**Thursday, April 9 | 9:30 AM**

Preble Street Food Hub 75 Darling Ave, South Portland

Come learn about world hunger and two local ministries, tour the Preble Street Food Security Hub & enjoy lunch! To sign up email [doreen.rinas@gmail.com](mailto:doreen.rinas@gmail.com)

### EVEN AS WE GRIEVE

**Thursday, April 16 | 5:30PM-7:30PM**

USM Crewe Center for the Arts  
111 Bedford St, Portland

An evening of art, music, and community featuring the work of 2026 Artist-in-Residence Peter Bruun and artwork and stories from Family Promise participants like Erika Jamece.

*Click on the picture or underlined text to go to the website or send an email*



## FACA – IN APRIL WE WILL:

1. Continue to partner with MUUSAN, focusing on bills in the Maine State Legislature. The session is scheduled to end April 15.
2. Begin to explore Ground Truth, an innovative people-powered canvassing program, employing deep, meaningful conversations with ALL voters.
3. Explore opportunities for actions offered by League of Women Voters of Maine. These range in comfort levels from organizing voter forums to knocking on doors.
4. Some of us will continue to participate in the Bridge Brigade, new hours, Wednesdays and Fridays. 4:00 5:30 p.m. Deering Bridge
5. Prepare for May 1, next national action which is in development.
6. See our updates in the weekly Eblast for more specifics. Contact [Julie Harrison](#) or [Cynthia Marten](#) FMI.



## MAINE COALITION CONDEMNS OUT-OF-STATE BILLIONAIRE INFLUENCE BEHIND ANTI-TRANS MEASURE

*Click on the picture or underlined text to go to the website or send an email*



### **Monument Square Weekly Peaceful Protest with Indivisible**

Every Saturday at  
11am-12pm

**Where:** Monument  
Square, Portland,  
ME

Find your people at the weekly, peaceful protest in Monument Square. Bring a cool sign. All who oppose the administration's harmful executive actions, both domestic and international, are welcome! Stand in solidarity for change.

## APRIL IS ARAB AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

Arab American Heritage Month celebrates the culture, history, and contributions of Arab Americans. The official 2026 theme for Celebrating National Arab American Heritage Month is "Many Voices, One Community".

Celebrating the rich and diverse culture and contributions of the diverse population of Arab Americans, National Arab American Heritage Month has been observed during the month of April since 2017.

More than 3.5 million Americans have Arab roots, according to the 2020 U.S. Census, with ancestries traced to 22 countries across the Middle East and North Africa. Arab Americans began arriving to the US during the late 19th and early 20th century.

Arabs are ethnically, religiously and politically diverse but descend from a common linguistic and cultural heritage.

**If you are holding a print copy of the newsletter, here are the QR CODES for links in this issue**

Use a Smartphone camera to hover over the QR code and go to the link.



**Maine coalition condemns out-of-state billionaire influence behind anti-trans measure**



**South Portland Land Trust: Community Walks**



**Arab American History Month ([history.com](https://history.com))**

## Welcome to the Side With Love Action Center Weekly Update

Each week, we'll share:

A brief analysis of critical issues in this political moment

Immediate actions you can take

Resources to deepen knowledge and strengthen our collective work to side with love

Nothing is inevitable. Justice movements are built by ordinary people who come together to defeat oppression



**SIDE WITH LOVE**

The Organizing Strategy Team of the Unitarian Universalist Association



## MUUSAN'S CALL TO ACTION PAGE

*Maine UU State Advocacy Network*

- MUUSAN's Current Call to Action Page.
- ➔ **Check regularly** because actions come up often.
- ➔ Or **Sign up** for their Take Action Emails
- ➔ For More Information: [MUUSAN.org](https://MUUSAN.org)