

Social Justice Update



Share the Plate - April

[Project FEED \(nominated by Sue Malcolm & Barbara Freeman\)](#)

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 Seven Principles. We hope that Share the Plate will also bring a greater awareness to the community of Allen Avenue UU Church and Unitarian-Universalist values.

Social Justice Committee will have their Service April 28th

Social Justice Committee is collecting diapers for Family Promise

Social Justice Committee Monthly Meeting 4/24 Zoom

Links



[Maine Gun Safety](#)



[UU The Vote](#)



UPLIFT: Trans Day of Visibility
Tuesday, April 2nd @ 8pm ET

[Register Here](#)



"A place to find community with transgender, nonbinary folk and our allies
A conference for us to gather, learn and grow."

Saturday, April 27, 2024

In-person & Online
At First UU Society of Syracuse, NY
Live Oak UU Church, TX, UU Community of

Online participation in **Building the Beloved Community Beyond the Binary** | UUA.org ([registration link](#))

Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary is our first collaborative, multi-site, justice-making event happening throughout the Southern Region. Join us for a day of creating community with transgender, nonbinary folk, and our allies. This conference is an opportunity for LGBTQIA+ folks in our local communities to gather, laugh, create joy, and find partnerships in our local communities which will be a sustaining force throughout the upcoming year AND for folks not in the LGBTQIA+ community to learn effective, appropriate allyship through a Unitarian Universalist lens. We will gather online and in-person at various host-sites around the Southern Region to learn, grow, and become - together.

VIEW A VIDEO INVITATION FROM NATALIE BRISCOE, UUA SOUTHERN REGION LEAD.



WABANAKI ALLIANCE

The Wabanaki Alliance advocates for legislation and policies that improve the lives of Wabanaki citizens and our neighbors around the state, protect and preserve our environment, and honor tribal history and culture. Find our current calls to action click on the picture and learn more about how you can Stand With Wabanaki.

THANK YOU ALL who submitted written testimony on LD 2007.

There were 45 MUUSAN generated testimonies! That's 7.7% of the total 582 testimonies – that is VERY IMPRESSIVE given how relatively small UU churches are.

LD 2007 update: The sweeping sovereignty bill was narrowed significantly as an amended bill covering expanded criminal jurisdiction by tribal courts. This was negotiated with the governor and is supported by her. No action needed, but you may ask your legislators to vote for it on the floor, thank them if they do so, and also thank the governor for her continued willingness to expand tribal self-determination.

Green Teams Gathering

SUNDAY, MAY 19
2.00 - 5.00PM (EASTERN)

Cape Elizabeth United
Methodist Church
Cape Elizabeth, Maine



Cape Elizabeth United
Methodist Church



**NEVER DOUBT THAT A SMALL GROUP
OF THOUGHTFUL, COMMITTED CITIZENS
CAN CHANGE THE WORLD; INDEED, IT'S
THE ONLY THING THAT EVER HAS.**

— MARGARET MEADE

Green Teams Gathering

This program is free. Donations to support the ongoing work of The BTS Center will be accepted with gratitude.

This spring, The BTS Center is pleased to offer a gathering opportunity for members and friends of congregational Green Teams, Earth Care Teams, Climate Action Teams, and other congregational teams (by any name!) that are exploring the impacts of climate change, pursuing sustainable practices, embracing ecological understandings, or organizing collective action in this time of planetary upheaval.

Over the course of a Sunday afternoon, we will meet in Southern Maine to learn and connect with one another – to share what work our Green Teams are doing and to imagine collectively how they may evolve to meet the challenges of these times.

This gathering is open to people of diverse faith traditions and backgrounds, as well as people who may not have a Green Team established in their community yet.

For more information and to register, visit thebtscenter.org

Sunday, May 19,
2024 • 2.00 - 5.00
pm

Cape Elizabeth
United Methodist
Church

280 Ocean House Road, Cape Elizabeth, ME



Photo from last week's Housing Justice Rally in Augusta co-sponsored by MUUSAN and Maine Equal Justice.



Housing Wins: Successful Housing Campaigns

Zoning and affordable housing: We worked on housing related zoning bills that would take steps to improve Maine’s zoning laws to encourage housing affordability and help reverse segregation and exclusion in our cities and towns. LD 2003 sponsored by Speaker Ryan Fecteau and LD 1673 sponsored by Rep. Rachel Talbot Ross. LD 2003 was signed by the Governor and LD 1673 is expected to become law without the Governor’s signature.

Housing vouchers: LD 473, sponsored by Rep. Victoria Morales, which would provide state housing vouchers to 1,000 households and institute a housing navigation program, passed the House and Senate! We are hopeful that MaineHousing will fund the programs outlined in LD 473.

Tenant Blacklists: We are very happy that LD 913 sponsored by Rep. Tavin Hasenfus, was signed into law. LD 913 will protect Mainers from unfair use of court data around evictions.



General Assistance: LD 910, sponsored by Rep. Michael Brennan, was partially funded with a \$10 million appropriation for municipalities to fund their General Assistance programs and help low income families facing economic emergencies to stay housed, fed and able to afford the medicine they need.

Family Promise is collecting “Getting Started” kits for our families throughout April

You can help by donating anything from the lists. Also gift cards from Walmart, Hannaford or a Dollar Store are also very appreciated so the GPFM move-in team can purchase any missing items.

Please leave things in the Lobby, there will be a sign and a box for donations.

Laundry Kit:

- ✿ 1 Laundry basket
- ✿ 1 jug laundry detergent
- ✿ 20 Plastic clothing hangers

Essentials Kits:

- ✿ 1 kitchen wastebasket with swing top (13 gallon)
- ✿ 1 box of 13-gallon trash bags (approx. 30)
- ✿ 2-3 large paper towels rolls
- ✿ 4 LED light bulbs
- ✿ 1 night light
- ✿ 1 indoor extension cords-6 ft
- ✿ 1 box tissues
- ✿ 6 rolls toilet paper

Bathroom Kit:

- ✿ 1 container Liquid hand soap
- ✿ 3 bars of soap
- ✿ 1 Toilet brush with holder
- ✿ 1 pack feminine pads
- ✿ 1 package shower curtain rings
- ✿ 1 shower curtain and liner
- ✿ 1 tube kid’s toothpaste
- ✿ 1 tube adult toothpaste
- ✿ Adult toothbrushes
- ✿ Kids' toothbrushes
- ✿ 1 small wastebasket

Cleaning Kit:

- ✿ 1 bucket
- ✿ 1 can disinfectant wipes
- ✿ 32 oz concentrated cleaner
- ✿ HandiWipes (approx. 30)
- ✿ Broom with dustpan
- ✿ Mop with 1 replacement head

Kitchen Kit:

- ✿ 1 bottle dish soap
- ✿ 1 dish brush
- ✿ 1 container liquid hand soap
- ✿ 2 dish sponges
- ✿ 2 scrubbing sponges
- ✿ 1 dish rack with tray
- ✿ 1 box of sandwich bags

Medicine Kit:

- ✿ 1 reusable plastic bin
- ✿ 1 bottle Tums/antacid
- ✿ 1 bottle Adult acetaminophen/Tylenol or ibuprofen
- ✿ 1 bottle Children’s acetaminophen/Tylenol or ibuprofen
- ✿ 1 Infant acetaminophen/Tylenol or ibuprofen
- ✿ 1 box Band-Aids
- ✿ 1 tube triple antibiotic cream
- ✿ Q-tips
- ✿ Cotton balls

Additionally, cash donations labeled “Family Promise” could be sent to A2U2 through Breeze, church drop off or snail mail. Contact [Emily O’Neill \(emily.gagan@gmail.com\)](mailto:emily.gagan@gmail.com) or [AnneMarie Catanzano \(amc04105@gmail.com\)](mailto:AnneMarie.Catanzano@amc04105@gmail.com) for more information.

Thank you for your continued support.

A BIG THANKS TO YOU AND YOUR LEGISLATORS FOR SUPPORTING DEMOCRACY!

Celebrate all the great advances to ensure voting access is made simple and secure: **online voter registration, ongoing absentee and automatic voter registration at BMV are all in effect.**

These are big wins after years of hard work.

Plan for adding some grassroots pressure to the Governor to sign NPV.



Opponents to NPV were at the state house pushing hard on our supportive legislators.

We need to get this through the second reading in the House and we don't have a large margin, so it's imperative we keep our supporters.

Now is a great time to get the thank you's in to legislators to encourage them to stay with us.

Thank you for supporting Project Feed your donations were gratefully received by the pantry last week.

A2U2 has been a long time supporter of Project Feed.

Project Feed serves as many as 60 families in a week (many are 5-8 in number) although some are single. That said, on average they serve 130 unique households in a month with 400 plus individuals. They are allowed to come every other week. There is critical need at this time due to increased food prices and the growing asylum seeking population in the Portland area.

We are all being adversely affected by increased food prices, but the situation is

especially difficult for low income families and individuals.

Want to help in a different way? **Project Feed desperately needs more volunteers on these days:**

- Monday mornings from 9 - 11
- Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoons from 12:30 - 3:00
- Friday mornings from 9 to 11



Volunteering may involve "sit-down" jobs that happen on Monday mornings, or computer help in the afternoons. Other needs involve restocking and/or picking up items from elsewhere. Some jobs

involve standing for periods of time (afternoon serving of clients), driving a truck, shopping, and/or lifting things to place on shelves.

[Delene Perley \(delenerley@gmail.com\)](mailto:delenerley@gmail.com) is our contact for Project Feed (www.projectfeed.org)