

Social Justice Update



Share the Plate - MaineTrans.Net (nominated by Rev. Tara Humphries)

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.

SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICE MAY 11TH

With Jodi Cohen
Hayashida

11:30am-12:30pm:

**Justice
Organizing 101**
workshop with Rev.
Jodi

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CALLS FOR ACTION

Friday 2-3 PM at Church

Rooms 7 & 9

SJC MONTHLY MEETING

May 28th at 7PM via
Zoom

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

Links

ON TYRANNY

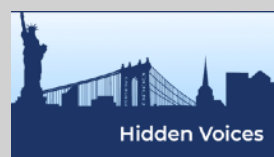
TWENTY LESSONS
FROM THE
TWENTIETH CENTURY

TIMOTHY SNYDER

Video of the Month

John Lithgow
reading from
Timothy Snyder's
On Tyranny.

**"#1 Do not obey in
advance:** Most of
the power of
authoritarianism is
freely given..."



Each video on

[Hidden Voices](#)

highlights an
important LGBTQ+
figure or event and
is accompanied by
supporting
materials, including
a viewing guide and
documents to
support integrating
the videos into
instruction.

DEFEND OUR VOTING RIGHTS RALLY.

Saturday May 10th 2pm

Augusta State House.

[Sign up here.](#)

On March 12, the office of the Secretary of State released draft language for the referendum as it will appear on the November ballot. The question, as drafted, reads:

“Do you want to change Maine election laws to require voters to show ID before voting, end ongoing absentee voting for seniors and people with disabilities, ban prepaid postage on absentee ballot return envelopes, prohibit requests for absentee ballots by phone or family members, eliminate two days of absentee voting, and make other changes to our elections?”

Find out more about the campaign [here](#).

SHARE THE PLATE RECIPIENTS FOR FY26

- June - [Portland Gear Hub](#) (Naneen Chace-Ortiz)
- July - [Project Feed](#) (Elizabeth McNeely & Sue Malcolm)
- August - [Mano en Mano](#) (Naneen Chace-Ortiz)
- September - [Greater Portland Family Promise](#) (annual contribution)
- October - [MUUSAN](#) (annual contribution)
- November - [Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project](#) (AnneMarie Catanzano & Naneen Chace-Ortiz)
- December - Minister's Discretionary Fund (annual contribution)
- January - [Portland Wheelers](#) (Rick Kimball)
- February - (nominated by Senior Youth Group)
- March - [State Street Winter Family Shelter](#) (Tara Humphries)
- April - [Portland Trails](#) (Erica Bartlett)
- May - [Youth and Family Outreach](#) (Sonia Tonelli)
- June - [Furniture Friends](#) (Samuel Sherry)

MAY 11TH — SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICE



Rev. Jodi Cohen Hayashida

Jodi (she/her) organizes people of all faiths to build power.

Jodi has been grounding a community of faith in the discipline and practice of radical love for more than two decades. She served publicly as clergy voice advocating for justice and supported others in doing the same. Working with my people to nurture and develop a culture that recognizes hope, grief, joy, and holy rage as equally sacred expressions of love. Jodi grew up outside of Boston, attended seminary in Chicago, and was called to serve as the minister of First Universalist in Auburn.



On April 26th A2U2 with partners UU Church of Brunswick and First Parish UU of Portland hosted their first annual **Building Beloved Community Beyond the Binary (BBCBB)** gathering. Our goal was a day of learning, support, joy and community. We listened to several workshops, chatted with Fiona from OutMaine and each other and shared a delicious lunch made and served by the amazing kitchen crew led by Celeste Stickney



HISTORY OF MOTHER'S DAY

The origins of Mother's Day in the United States are rooted in the post-Civil War era and the efforts of Ann Reeves Jarvis. She established "Mothers' Day Work Clubs" in 1858 to combat high infant and child mortality rates by educating mothers on hygiene and sanitation and providing essential aid. Having lost nine children herself, her work was deeply personal and community-driven.

Following her mother's death in 1905, Anna Jarvis passionately pursued her mother's vision of a special day for mothers. Her dedication led to President Woodrow Wilson's 1914 proclamation



MAY UPDATE

Greater Portland Family Promise would like to thank all congregations, including A2U2, that collected donations of diapers, quarters, and gift cards throughout the month of April.

We are so grateful for your ongoing support!



establishing Mother's Day on the second Sunday in May.

The holiday also has an antiwar history. In 1872, after the brutal Franco-Prussian war, Julia Ward Howe, a peace activist who wrote "Battle Hymn of the Republic," established a day for mothers and antiwar protest. Julia Ward's vision was an internationalist one, calling for a "general congress of women without limit of nationality" to "promote the alliance of the different nationalities, the amicable settlement of international questions, the great and general interests of peace."



FASCINATING HUMAN OF THE MONTH: REV. DR. PAULI MURRAY

The Rev. Dr. Pauli Murray was a twentieth-century human rights activist, legal scholar, feminist, poet, author, Episcopal priest, labor organizer, multiracial Black, LGBTQ+ Durhamite who lived one of the most remarkable lives of the 20th century. S/he was the first Black person to earn a JSD (Doctor of the Science of Law) degree from Yale Law School, a founder of the National Organization for Women and the first Black person perceived as a woman to be ordained an Episcopal priest. For More Information go to the www.paulimurraycenter.com

If you want to see a beautiful piece of Pauli Murray art, pop into Rev. Tara's office!

UNDERSTANDING ISSUES OF GENDER WITH CHRISTINE CAULFIELD

6:00pm - 8:00pm, Wednesday, May 7, 2025

6:00pm - 8:00pm, Wednesday, May 21, 2025

At Prince Memorial Library

Serving Cumberland & North Yarmouth

Christine is an advocate for equal rights and treatment of people in the LGBTQ+ community, having spent seven years at MaineTransNet, and currently serving on the board of the Equality Community Center in Portland.



MAY FOOD DRIVE

Donations will be collected throughout the month of May.

Requested items may be dropped off at the Social Justice Table every Sunday.

Helpful things are

- toothpaste
- single wrapped toilet paper
- shampoo
- dawn dish soap - small
- salad dressings
- crackers
- canned pineapple
- canned peaches
- cooking oil
- white rice - small bags
- broth

- canned chicken
- canned tuna
- cake mixes, cookies,
- condiments,
- Other items are appreciated

Volunteer Opportunity

Project Feed needs volunteers to help on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday from 12:30 to 3:00

[https://
www.projectfeed.org/](https://www.projectfeed.org/)

Thank You For Your Generosity



Signs from April 5th Protest in Augusta

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

When asked why they don't participate in action against what is happening, most respondents said it was because no one had asked them to. So this week, ask people to join you in your activism in whatever form that takes.

A2U2 - SIDE WITH LOVE ACTION CENTER



Several bills have been submitted in the Maine Legislature that would roll back civil rights, discriminate against trans youth, and open the door to further harassment, bullying, and abuse. Join us to ask lawmakers to support young people, not harmful national political agendas, by using the link below to send an email to your State Representative and State Senator.

Thank you for taking the time to take action against these harmful proposals!

Use this email tool to write your State Representative and State Senator

- Let them know how important it is to stand with us.
- We already have an email drafted for you, but we encourage you to personalize it.

Attacking trans youth who play sports is bullying - plain and simple.

An attack on trans people is unacceptable, and Maine people will not stand for this or any other brazen, cruel, unconstitutional attempt to deny people their rights.

You can also call your legislators.

Not sure who your state senator and state representative are? Find your elected officials [here](#).

Need a call script? Click [here](#) for a sample.

A2U2 - SIDE WITH LOVE ACTION CENTER

- **MUUSAN's** [Current Call to Action Page](#). Check regularly because actions come up often.

➔ **Sign up** for their [Take Action Emails](#)



Faith in Action Community Forum

First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church | 425 Congress St, Portland

Saturday May 10th | 12:30 - 2:30

Optional time for food, mingling, and community tabling from 2:30 - 3:30

The livelihoods of everyday people are under attack. Let's come together to strengthen our relational ties by centering the needs of our at-risk immigrant neighbors. Hear from leaders, organizers, and community members on how we can support the efforts at work, and build a stronger collective.

Hear from



Crystal Cron
Founder + Director of
Presente! Maine



Mufalo Chitam
Director of Maine
Immigrants Rights
Coalition



Rev. Jodi Hayashida
Director of Multifaith
Justice Maine



Molly Curren Rowles
Director of
ACLU Maine



Rev. Sara Ewing-Merrill
Lead Pastor of
HopeGateWay Church

Co-sponsored with

**Multifaith Justice Maine
Maine Immigrant Rights Coalition**

Any questions or accessibility needs?
Go to: bit.ly/FIAcontact

