

## Social Justice Action

"Little by little we human beings are confronted with situations that give us more and more clues that we are not perfect."

—Fred Rogers

If you have something YOU are passionate about, please tell us so we can spread the word.

## UUCSW Service Project

Social Justice *FAMILY* Event – Please mark your calendar.

When – **THIS** Sunday February 3, 12:00 – 12:30 PM

Where – In our very own church kitchen.

**NOTE – The Super Bowl doesn't start until 6:30. You can watch the game AND Do Good.**

What – Pack meals. We will be packing meals for people in a homeless shelter in Worcester. *There will be jobs for all ages.* We deliver 100 meals on Sunday and they are handed out the next two days. The shelter does NOT provide lunches so this is a big help for people.

This month, **Wegmans** has made a donation of \$100 for the purchase of food and other items.

## Social Justice Opportunity

The mass legislature is in its final week of looking for co-sponsors on bills submitted for this session. Here are a few of the bills that need co-sponsors. **CALL YOUR LEGISLATOR!**

### Workers' Rights:

[SD.1464](#) An Act to prevent wage theft, promote employer accountability, and enhance public enforcement.

**HD.1409** An Act updating overtime protections to protect the Commonwealth's middle class workers

[SD.1182](#) / HD.2947 An Act protecting Injured Workers.

### Climate Action & Justice:

**100% Renewables** - Set an ambitious goal to equitably reach 100% renewable electricity by 2035 and 100% renewable energy for heating and transportation by 2045. [FACT SHEET](#)

### Solitary Confinement:

[SD.2094](#) / **HD.1126** An Act to collect data on LGBTQI prisoners held in restrictive housing. [FACT SHEET](#)

## Social Justice Opportunity

As some of you know, I have been involved in a program where I visited a man who was incarcerated. A few years ago I did a church service where I talked about Mike and the tremendous effect he had on me. Mike has been released and is doing great. I am about to take on another person who is incarcerated. I'm betting there are other readers here who would like to do this. Read on:

- You don't do it alone – you always go in with someone else.
- The first time visiting the prison is scary, but it gets easier and you start seeing more and more of what's really happening. (The person you're visiting is NOT scary.)
- Frequency of visiting is up to you.
- You are doing a real service for a person who has very little.
- You could form a group of people and visit only occasionally.

Check out <http://partakers.org/site/> and/or talk with me about it.

## Values

What is it about someone's personal beliefs and values, especially those elicited by our UU faith, that lead them to care about social justice? I asked Laura Wagner to pose the question in her UU Mass Action Newsletter. For the next few weeks I will publish responses that she received.

**Values and principles have no meaning unless they are lived. My paternal grandparents were Armenian genocide survivors. They were only children when they witnessed the murder of their entire family. They only survived because strangers were willing to risk their own safety and help them. I think of them, and all the Armenian genocide survivors and victims when I organize and take action for immigrant justice today. Also, I grew up in a dysfunctional family, which was the legacy of the trauma caused by the genocide, as well as a history of poverty. I left home at 14 and was homeless for two years. This experience provided a perspective on the reality of life for so many people, which often goes unobserved right in our own communities. It also taught me how not to be afraid, how to savor every moment and that we only find what we are looking for. I am grateful for my UU community, where I can be my full self, learn from others and know that I will have a chance to call others, and be called, to be our best self.**

Jerry Breecher is the editor of this Social Justice Action sheet. I welcome any and all notices you would like to place here. Inherent in any such listing as this is a point of view – your point of view may differ from mine, but I would be truly delighted to express your social action agenda here. [Jerry@Breecher.com](mailto:Jerry@Breecher.com)