

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 – Sunday April 7, 12:00 – 12:30 PM

Where – In our very own church kitchen.

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.

Social Justice Opportunity

Follow the movement for Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts on twitter → <https://twitter.com/cjreformma>

Social Justice Opportunity

Your editor was recently in Southern Arizona. There is strong opposition to the behavior of Border Patrol toward immigrants by many of the people in this area. The UU church in Tucson www.uuctucson.org is a strong advocate for immigrants through the Social Justice arm of the church. You can listen to discussion of the position of people at this church on their website here → <https://www.uuctucson.org/106-no-more-deaths/no-more-deaths/1768-cruelty-in-the-desert.html>

Social Justice Opportunity

OK – the topic is **Reparations**. The argument goes like this. How much have you – yes you – benefited by 400 years of repression of African Americans. First of all, there's the unpaid labor of slaves. In the Southern U.S., calculating the value of all holdings, land was the most valuable, followed by slaves. Slaves had immense economic value. It turns out Abraham Lincoln freed the slaves not because he believed in their freedom, but so the South couldn't raise loans from foreign countries by using slaves as collateral; if African Americans

were no longer slaves, they held no economic value. All that slave labor has a price.

And then, what about all the injustices, and share cropping labor done to African Americans after they were "freed". What about all the GIs in WWII who served their country but weren't given the chance at the GI Bill that gave mortgages?

And what advantages do we, who live in a "good zip code", which affords us good schools, good jobs, safety, clean water – how much do we need to pay for those who don't have those advantages? So what do we, who have benefited from this unpaid and under paid labor, for a good zip code; what obligation do we have to African Americans? There are many ways to calculate this. The best number I've come up with is Six TRILLION dollars. That's about \$20,000 for every man, woman, and child in the US. But wait – the MEDIAN net worth of everyone in the US is about \$100,000. If you own a home in Westborough, and you've paid off a portion of your mortgage, you have a net worth more than the median.

YOU owe MORE than that \$20,000 per person. You have benefitted more from the system; you've benefitted more from that African American labor than has the typical person.

But – the argument goes – "I've worked hard for what I have". Very true – but you've had a tremendous advantage of whiteness, educational opportunities, middle-class-ness, parental wealth; not given to the typical African American.

People are poor not because they're lazy, but because they haven't had the perks that most of us have had. Are you ready to pay your share?

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.

I believe in the interdependent web that we all are a part of, and that each person is valuable. I have been dealt a very good hand in life, and believe it is my obligation, my opportunity, my gift to my community, to work together in solidarity, to make my corner of the world a better place. Susan

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