

Social Justice Action

“You either have to be part of the solution, or you're going to be part of the problem.” Eldridge Cleaver

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 May 5, 12:00 – 12:30 PM ← That's TODAY

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.

This issue is about Racial Justice. I know I'm preaching to the choir, but that doesn't mean that the choir knows all the notes. Hope you will read on:

We have always lived in a time where we assume that if someone isn't successful, it's through some fault of their own. 500 years ago, John Calvin started Presbyterianism based on the “fact” that successful people must have God on their side. Many people believe that still today – Donald Trump constantly talks about how successful he is – so he must be in the right. So how do we go about giving another side to this narrative? This is where White Privilege comes in – when White people assume that a non-white is unsuccessful because he/she is at fault, they don't take into account that Whites have had tremendous privilege. They don't take into account that social mobility is extremely rare in the US – if you start out poor, you end up poor.

Jerry went to the UU Mass Action Conference a few weeks ago – the day had a keynote speaker in the morning, and in the afternoon I met with my State Legislator, and I believe, had a useful dialog. There were a number of issues I was supporting; environmental action, prison reform, etc. She was able to make the argument that she is supported by constituents who are more conservative than me and as such must take a more balanced approach than I might favor. Fair enough – that won't stop me from advocating.

Keynote speaker was Chris Crass – look him up on YouTube. He has a number of great talks there.

My take-away points: “Racism is a White Person's problem. Oh my gosh, you have a white congregation! Wonderful – you have White people who can work for racial justice.” We, in Westborough are in an ideal position to fight this problem.

When you say “I don't see race”, you are being racist. It shuts down the conversation. When YOU don't speak up, you leave the conversation to those who are racist.

White supremacy depends on us believing that the system can't change. When your “Uncle Charlie” starts spouting racism at Thanksgiving, do you stop him with facts? Do you know the facts?

In the 1960s, overt racism was rampant in the US, especially in the South. But society is now much more politely racist. “Today's social systems have made it very easy for us to degrade you in very polite ways.”

I have vowed to work on my 1-minute elevator speech about White Privilege. I couldn't do it successfully at this conference – ask me please!



*The Earth comes to the State House –
I'm pretty sure it's asking for our help*

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.
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