



Newsletter Date: 11/21/16

We believe our faith calls us to change the world

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Nov 29th is the National Day of Giving - Please support UU organizing in MA by making a donation to UU Mass Action - thank you!

A Message and Action Steps from Evan Seitz, UU Mass Action Climate Organizer

Hi friends,

I have a confession to make: the election of Donald Trump has thrown me for a loop. I'm feeling sad, numb, angry, fearful. At therapy on the Wednesday after the election I cried for the first half of the session - hardly able to get out any words, and then paused to ask my therapist if he had any suggestions for mourning rituals. After a moment without speaking, he too started crying. I passed him the box of tissues.

We live in sad and scary times. And despite the setback I'm committed to going on; am committed to the slow, careful work of building faith communities of joy and resistance.

Climate justice work will inevitably change with the election of Trump. And not only because Trump is a climate change denier and will almost certainly try to defang the EPA and climate treaties. It will change because Trump has emboldened white supremacy and other hate groups, has threatened religious minorities, immigrants, and the disabled, has trivialized core tenants of our democracy and constitution. With such a broad attack on civil liberties and members of our community, the nature of our movements and our organizing MUST also change.

I don't know what all those changes will look like. I do know that I've felt a need in the short term to mourn. I've cried almost every day since the election. My friends have been similarly affected. My whole social network is grieving, complaining of feeling nauseous, sad, broken. Normally when one of us is down, others are there to pick us up. This time we're down together.

And this has been a time of checking in. I'm sure some of you reading this have received text messages similar to this one. *"How are you?"* or *"Been thinking about you and wondering how you are coping."*



It has been my philosophy of life that difficulties vanish when faced boldly.
Isaac Asimov

I've felt the need to reconnect with loved ones, to re-assert that I'm there for them and they're there for me.

Mourning and reconnecting with loved ones are necessary steps in moving forward. But what comes next?

1. We need to prepare to protect those who are vulnerable among us. The Standing on the Side of Love director Caitlin Breedlove created a short [video](#) with tips on de-escalation and how to respond if you see someone being harassed.
2. We can come together in small groups to process and to begin to plan. The Boston chapter of [SURJ](#), Standing Up for Racial Justice, has created a [draft template](#) for hosting a house party to debrief the election with friends or members of your faith community.
3. We need to reimagine ways that our congregations can be fortified social movements and serve as sanctuaries in times of increased oppression. [Movement Cosecha](#) is calling on faith communities to declare themselves sanctuaries and provide safe spaces for the undocumented community.
4. We need to fortify our grassroots freedom movements, particularly those movements that are led by people of color and Native people (for example [Black Lives Matter](#), [Cosecha](#), and the [Water Protectors at Standing Rock](#)). It is social movements - not only non-profits - that we must support. These movements deserve our money, our presence at actions, and our amplification of their message.
5. We need to fortify our ability to resist. We must remember that creating a world of justice has always meant working against long odds. How are we going to support those in our congregation who take real risks in the service of others who are targeted? How do we build power among Unitarian Universalist congregations who have historically, and tragically, too often operated independently rather than built a unified front against hatred, bigotry, and systemic violence?

As Caitlin Breedlove says, we are now in a different political moment that requires new and different skills. Let's be gentle with each other and ourselves as we navigate this new landscape.

With love and gratitude, Evan

ACTION & RELATIONSHIP BUILDING OPPORTUNITIES

Join the Rapid Response Faith Team for Creating Sanctuary

[Click HERE to complete the form](#)



The threat directed at people in the immigrant community is terrifying. We will not stand idly by and watch families be torn apart. The faith community is taking action in a variety of ways - we need to be

prepared for whatever happens. Your response to this request will help us know how you and your congregation are willing to help. We need:

1. Congregations that are willing to offer physical sanctuary (UU Mass Action will help you navigate this process)
 2. Congregations that are willing to fill support roles for sanctuary churches - providing companionship, food, washing clothes, etc
 3. Congregations willing to host and support emergency prep training for those who face deportation
 4. Congregations that are willing to consider helping as demands arise
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Resources - Report Hate

If you witness anyone being harassed or victimized by hatred, here's what you can do:

1. Support the person. These links describe how you can take action

[Video: Standing on the Side of Love](#)

[10 Ways to Fight Hate: community response Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

[Islamophobia Abuse: Cartoon Gives Advice on How to Help if You Witness a Hate Crime](#)

2. Report what you witness

[Report Hate, Southern Poverty Law Center](#)

Call the new hotline set up by Attorney General Maura Healey **1-800-994-3228**

[And fill out a civil rights complaint form](#)

Last week to take action in support of Indigenous Peoples Day MA

UU Mass Action, working in partnership with [Indigenous Peoples Day MA](#), needs your support! We are joining the call for the Boston City Council to abolish Columbus Day and honor Indigenous Peoples Day by October of 2017. (Note: We are focusing on Boston at this stage in the campaign)



We've collected 161 signatures - let's get it to 500! The deadline to sign has been extended to NOV 23rd.

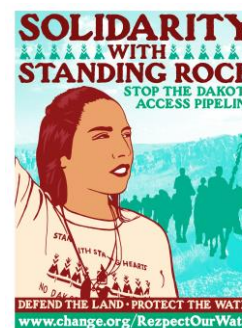
This is an indigenous-led campaign. UU Mass Action is working in solidarity with the campaign leaders. We ask that you join this effort by taking two actions today:

1. Sign the Indigenous Peoples Day MA petition available [HERE](#)
2. Sign our UU Mass Action letter* in support of this effort - [CLICK HERE](#)
Our letter will help to demonstrate the UU faith community's support of the call to abolish Columbus Day.

Please sign and then share this with your network - we can do this - Thank you!

[Blog Post: How to Talk About #NoDAPL: A Native Perspective, by Kelly Hayes](#)

Stay Informed about Sacred Stone Camp: <https://nodaplsolidarity.org/>
Join The Red Warrior Camp [MeWe](#) page



Support Gun Violence Prevention - Thank AG Maura Healey

Dear MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence Supporter:

Please join us in expressing our deep gratitude to Attorney General Maura Healey for the courage she has shown in protecting the safety of the citizens of Massachusetts. Sign our letter of gratitude by clicking here: <https://goo.gl/forms/d6sqj1qyOQM3O8LI3>

Over the past year, Maura Healey has:

- Enforced a longstanding provision of state law prohibiting the sale of copycat assault weapons, the weapon used in most mass shootings; and
- Initiated a lawsuit against two gun manufacturers, Remington and Glock, in order to investigate suspected defects in their products leading to injury and death in our state.

As a result of these actions, our Attorney General has been subjected to innumerable personal attacks and lawsuits from the loud and well-funded gun industry and its surrogates.

Thus far, the courts have upheld the Attorney General's efforts. But there is still a long way to go and much work to be done. We need to let Maura Healey know that we applaud her efforts, appreciate her courage, and that she will have our support as she moves forward. Please join us in thanking her, by clicking here to sign the letter: <https://goo.gl/forms/d6sqj1qyOQM3O8LI3>

Thank you for your support!

EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Note: Events Below are sponsored or co-sponsored by UU Mass Action, or are being offered by our UU

Greater Boston Area

We Need UU's to Show Up!

Stop Spectra - Neighborhood Rally

When: Mon Nov 28th 8:00 - 10:00 AM

Where: 10 Grove Street, across the Street from the Quarry



Gas is approved to flow on Nov 28th - Join our neighborhood rally! Speakers will include City Councilor Matt O'Malley

Join West Roxbury neighbors to say STOP to National Grid and Spectra Energy's unnecessary West Roxbury Lateral Pipeline.

Raise Up Massachusetts Legislative Announcement and Rally

When: Tuesday, November 29th, 2016 at 1:30PM

Where: Grand Staircase, 2nd Floor, Massachusetts State House



UU Mass Action and our partners in Raise Up Massachusetts have been on the front lines of tackling income inequality and building an economy that works for everyone. Together, we won an historic increase in the minimum wage, earned sick time benefits for all MA families, and launched a campaign to amend the MA constitution to make millionaires pay their fair share.

The recent election has demonstrated that our work in Massachusetts is more important than ever and we're going to make a legislative announcement regarding a new historic campaign.

[That's why we want you to join us on November 29th at 1:30PM at the Grand Staircase on the 2nd Floor of the Massachusetts State House.](#)

On the 29th, activists across the Commonwealth will come together to rally for legislation that Raise Up will be announcing for the next legislative session. **[Join Raise Up Massachusetts as we hold our legislators accountable to all workers in the Commonwealth.](#)**

Rally & Press Conference - Jobs Not Jails

When: Tue Dec 13th at 10:00 AM

Where: 140 Bowdoin St, Church of the New Jerusalem (across from the State House, on the side)



The Governor, Speaker, Senate President, and Chief Justice will JOINTLY file a bill in mid-January on criminal justice reform. It will include some of the recommendations of a report the Council of State Governments (CSG) will publish on the criminal justice system in Massachusetts that will be released when their bill is filed.

a. Good News--This elevates criminal justice reform to being a "must pass" a bill situation given the 4 major state leaders are behind it (The Governor, Senate President, House Speaker and Chief Justice).

b. BUT THE CHALLENGE: The bill they file will very likely NOT be comprehensive enough and will likely focus on the "back end" of the system on probation, parole, and some aspects of recidivism but NOT on the "front end" of the system like repealing long mandatory minimum sentences on non-violent drug offenders etc. [Read more about the Jobs Not Jails Priorities](#)

To meet this challenge of getting a stronger bill passed than the one the 4 State leaders will likely file, we are taking these actions that you can help with....

1. Attend the Rally / Press Conference on **December 13 at 10:00**. Jobs NOT Jails will have a rally/press conference to call on the 4 state leaders to include the 6 proposals of the Jobs NOT Jails Coalition

2. **Contact your legislators** and/or come to the Jobs Not Jails Lobby Day in January - ask that they co-sponsor the omnibus criminal justice reform bill, **The Justice Reinvestment Act**, which will include the Jobs Not Jails Priorities. (more details to come on this - filing deadline is Jan 20th)

3. In March 2017, the coalition will be organizing 6 or more **major public action** meetings in Boston, Brockton, New Bedford, Worcester, Springfield, Lynn, Lowell to show large scale public support from major criminal justice reform and engage legislators, mayor, sheriffs, police chiefs in standing with us in support. Let us know if you can help organize one of these events or offer a meeting space

Contact: Laura Wagner lwagner@uumassaction.org

All Regions

Statewide EMIT call [no video], Monday, Dec. 12, 7-8 pm

Topic: Update Regarding the Council of State Government Report: What we can expect for legislation in the 2017-18 session

Speakers: Laura Wagner, UU Mass Action Network Director, Susan Tordella, UU Mass Action EMIT, Legislative Director

Call in number: - (712) 432-1212 Meeting ID - 351-484-548#

Find out what reform bills may be introduced in the 2017 state legislative session based on recommendations of the Council on State Government [CSG], under the PEW Research Center. The CSG/PEW are neutral organizations that support justice and good state governments. Massachusetts leaders invited the CSG to study current justice practices and systems in the Commonwealth and offer bi-partisan recommendations for bills to be introduced in the next session.

Laura Wagner, director of Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network, will be the lead speaker. UU Mass Action is a member of the partner organizations working group that have been meetings with the CSG over the past year.

The Mass. Statehouse operates on an 18-month calendar, starting in January 2017. During the first three weeks of January, legislators must introduce bills to be considered for the new session, with co-sponsors. The Governor appointed a 25 member panel of state employees and legislators to partner with the CSG in this project. They have been meeting regularly for the past year.

South Shore

47th National Day of Mourning

When: Thurs Nov 24th, 12 noon

Where: Cole's Hill (The hill above Plymouth Rock), Plymouth MA

“Stand with us in our struggle to create a true awareness of Native peoples and demonstrate the unity of Indigenous peoples internationally. Help shatter the untrue glass image of the Pilgrims and unjust system based on racism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth.”

Sponsored by: [United American Indians of New England/LPSG](http://UnitedAmericanIndiansofNewEngland/LPSG) info@uaine.org

Absolutely no drugs or alcohol allowed. Pot luck social to follow

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Greater Boston Area

Today! Event Title: Close Pilgrim Nuclear Now, Speakout!

When: Mon Nov 21, 11:00 AM

Where: State House, Boston

We must confront a government that is failing the people. Join the growing Moral Monday movement to support the immediate closure of the Pilgrim nuclear power reactor in Plymouth which threatens our communities. Our safety and security depend on your voice joining others for a moral call to action. Help us take our power back! #ShutPilgrimNow

Flyer, Click [HERE](#)

Student-Led Strategy Session, Next Steps

When: Sat Nov 26th, 2:00 PM

Where: Trinitarian Congregational Church, Concord, 54 Walden St, Concord

Gillian Pasley, a student at Oberlin College, is organizing this strategy session. It's an opportunity for the community to explore a variety of options regarding how action might be taken. Free event, open to all.

The Next Four Years: Building Our Movements in Dangerous Times

When: Sat Dec 3rd 9:00 - 5:00 PM

Where: Simmons College, Paresky Conference Center, 300 The Fenway, Boston

Speakers:

Keynote, Bob Wing, Author of *Organizing on Shifting Terrain*

Rev. Paul Robeson Ford: Racial and Social Justice, Union Baptist Church, Cambridge

Elena Letona: Economic Justice, Neighbor to Neighbor

Emily Kirkland: Climate Justice, 350 Massachusetts

Joseph Gerson: Peace, American Friends Service Committee

Mike Connolly: Electoral and Democracy Organizing, Attorney & State Representative-Elect



Keynote: Bob Wing

Movement Intersections Panel:

Rev. Mariama White-Hammond, Massachusetts Moral Revival

Didi Delgado, Movement for Black Lives Matter

Representative from: Our Revolution Massachusetts

Special Video greeting from Bill McKibben, co-founder 350.org

UU Mass Action supporters
will receive a discount - be
sure to mention this when
you register!

Registration is Required - Click [HERE](#) for more info, list of sponsors and to register

WESTERN MA

Look, Listen Act! Climate Action Now Monthly Gathering

When: Mon Nov 28, 7 to 9 PM

Where: Unitarian Society of Amherst, 121 N. Pleasant St, Amherst

Handicap accessible and on a bus line - Everyone is welcome!