



Newsletter Date: 2/13/17

Like our [Facebook Page](#)

We believe our faith calls us to change the world



Become a monthly donor and support our shared work [DONATE](#)

Mark your calendars - UU Mass Action Advocacy day is April 11th!

ACTION

If you have not taken action on these opportunities yet, there is still time!



1) Stories, Stories, Stories...

Our elected officials have told us on numerous occasions that what they remember most are personal stories. The Raise Up Mass Coalition is gathering stories which demonstrate the impact the \$15 Minimum wage bill will have on thousands of workers in Massachusetts. We are also looking for stories from families who have added a child to their family or have had to deal with significant illness.



- 87% of workers in New England lack Access to paid leave
- 1.2 million workers risk losing their jobs if they take time off to care for a family emergency or to care for a new child.
- Many workers who are eligible for leave under the federal Family & Medical Leave Act can't afford to take unpaid leave and have to choose between keeping their job and caring for a loved one.

The MA Paid Family & Medical Leave bill would be paid through employer premium contributions to the new Family & Medical Leave Security Trust Fund or to a private insurance plan. Four states now have Paid Family & Medical Leave. In a survey six years after California's law was passed, 89-99% of employers reported either a "positive effect" or "no noticeable effect" on productivity.

Hardworking people in Massachusetts shouldn't have to choose between working at their job they need to pay the bills and caring for themselves or the family they love in a time of crisis.

How would this new legislation have helped you in the past or benefit you now? Let us know!

Contact: Laura Wagner lwagner@uumassaction.org

2) Be an Ally! Cooks are needed to support the Cosecha organizers each week

Cosecha is an immigrant rights and advocacy group, working for the permanent protection, dignity and respect of undocumented people in the United States.

When: Thursday and Friday evenings

What: food for 16 organizers

Where: Cosecha, 14 Cushing Ave. St. Mary's Church in Dorchester

How: log in and make an account on Meal Train, and sign up for a time

<https://mealtrain.com/dmm&rl>



Contact Julia if you have questions, or want to volunteer to deliver meals that others have prepared.

juliagallogly@gmail.com

3) Sign on Letter for Ending Mass Incarceration

Led by the Coalition for Effective Public Safety (CEPS), a sign-on letter has been created demanding that state leaders make good on promises to improve fairness and outcomes for those in the system, reduce prison and jail populations, decrease recidivism, and cut prison costs. We also urge the Governor and legislators to take responsibility now in executive actions and legislation to address long-standing failings of the Department of Correction and the Parole Board.

The full letter is here: <https://aclum.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/20170117-CSG-Letter.pdf>

Click [HERE](#) to Sign Your Name

Please share it on facebook! Let's get **600** signatures by Feb 14th!

[Learn More, read: Jean Trounstine's article, Beyond the Bars of Hopelessness: How we can Revive Parole Truthout, 2/4/17](#)

4) Build a Relationship with your Local Mosque

It's striking that when asked, many people respond that they don't know a Muslim person. It's easy to generalize and fall victim to fear based responses when discussing a group of people who are unknown to you. The best way to turn away from fear is to embrace compassion, love and learn to really see our neighbors fully. It's so exciting to hear about UU congregations who are building relationships with their Muslim neighbors!

Here are a few stories about what's been happening - please share your story as well!

UU Church of Medford - submitted by Michael Glenn

On Sunday February 5th UUCM hosted a group of local Muslims both at our service and at social hour afterwards. They people came from the Malden Islamic Center and from a congregation of Bangladeshi Muslims who live in Medford.

The service that day was a social justice service on “Radical Welcome,” led by Heather Vickery, chair of the social justice committee at our sister UU church in Malden. Heather recently returned from a trip to the US-Mexican border, and she works at the UU College of Social Justice in Cambridge. In fact, it was through Heather that we first met the folks from the Malden Islamic Center—they cooked an iftar dinner at the Malden FPC last June, and Heather invited a group from our social justice committee to attend. It was a lovely event.

We returned the favor by preparing a nice lunch for our visitors on February 5. Social hour began with a few speeches of welcome, and then we served a buffet-style lunch. We set up small tables, so people could share the meal with our visitors... and we could each get to know one another better.

All of us need friends, and at a time like this it’s important that none of our neighbors is singled out or scapegoated. Through this event we want to assure our Muslim neighbors that we’re glad to be part of the same community. Getting to know one another is part of what we’re all about.

This event was enthusiastically approved by our Board. It represents yet another way (like the Medford MLK Day brunch and the Medford Conversations) that we’re trying to reach out beyond our walls and encounter our neighbors.

One immediate result of our contact with the Islamic Center is, that they’ve invited our middle school RE class and their teachers to visit the Center some Sunday in February following this event, so that the class can learn more about Islam.

This event was a huge success. About 100 people came, including 20 or so Muslims. The sermon and service were spot-on. The choir sang a welcoming song in Arabic. Speeches of welcome were given and responded to. And everyone enjoyed lunch at the small tables... conversation went on from noon to close to 2:00. Just to let you know, good things are continuing to happen all over the place...

First Religious Society UU, Newburyport - Muslim Solidarity Banner Goes Up!

Written by Rev. Susan Milnor

On Sunday, February 5, the Justice Action Ministry brought before the congregation a banner reading, "We Stand with Our Muslim Neighbors." When JAM's representative, Annie Maurer, asked for the congregation's approval for hanging it outside, those present gave the effort a standing ovation. These words represent the support of people of one religious faith for another – their right to practice their faith and be treated with respect and to be accorded dignity.... Read the full article [Here](#)



[A list of local Mosques](#) has been created by the UUSC to help you get started - let's keep adding to the list! (*scroll down the page*)

5) What's happening with the Sanctuary to Solidarity Movement?

Our numbers are growing! UU Mass Action is a member of the interfaith team working to take action - the leaders of this team are now meeting weekly to coordinate our efforts. The team includes, MCAN (MA Community Action Network), Episcopal City Mission, Roxbury-Dorchester Power in Community, the Jewish Community Relations Council and many others.

What you can do:

1. Fill out an Individual Supporter form (#2, click [HERE](#))
 2. **Get on Signal!** We are continuing to explore our best options for fast secure communication but it is clear that Signal is an optimal option. Learn more on-line, <https://whispersystems.org/> Or download the signal app on your phone. Once you have this app installed, you can communicate via encrypted texts and phone calls with others who also have signal. Lead organizers will be able to set-up groups and communicate quickly - and securely - with those who within the rapid response network.
-

6) Pilgrim is shut down - Call to Action

The decision by Entergy to shut down the troubled Pilgrim reactor before the recent blizzard is a serious acknowledgement that Pilgrim is in very bad shape. Just like the public, Entergy has no confidence Pilgrim can operate safely. The NRC and Entergy will most likely spin this decision as a responsible action in light of the storm. But what this actually indicates is a real serious risk to public health and safety. It doesn't take just a blizzard for an emergency scram. The documented poor safety culture, ongoing equipment failures, and lack of maintenance all add up to danger any time, every day. Where is the Governor's voice for public safety? Keep Pilgrim shut for good.

Call Governor Baker and AG Healey to demand the NRC keep Pilgrim closed.

Gov. Baker: [617.725.4005](tel:617.725.4005)

AG Healey: [617.727.2200](tel:617.727.2200)

Learn More, Read Christine Legere's
2/9/17 Cape Cod Times article [HERE](#)

7) Be Heard! [Commonwealth Conversations 2017](#)

Let our Senators know what you care most about. These forums are open to the public. Be sure to arrive early if you want a chance to speak! Click on the links below to learn more.

[South Shore, February 28th](#)

[Southeast, March 7th](#)

[Central Mass, March 14th](#)

[Northeast, March 21st](#)

[Western Mass, March 28th](#)

[Metrowest, April 4](#)

[North Shore, April 11th](#)

LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

There are frequent changes and updates being made to priority legislation resources.

For legislation updates, go to the UU Mass Action [legislation page](#) From here, you can:

- 1) Download the entire 2017-2018 legislation spreadsheet
- 2) Download the 2017-2018 Legislative Priorities one-sheet
- 3) Check if your legislator is a bill sponsor

EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Looking for ways to live your values?

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

Peace and Prayer for Humanity: Report From Standing Rock/DAPL Pipeline

When: Thur Feb 16, 6:30 - 8:30 PM

Where: St. Marks' Church School, 18 Samoset St, Dorchester [Flyer](#)

Members of the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, other Native American Tribes, and non-Native allies gathered in the thousands in North Dakota to prevent the building of an oil pipeline under the Missouri River by the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL) Company, threatening the water source for 18 million people. The "Water-Protectors" succeeded in halting the construction a few weeks ago, pending environmental assessments. But now Donald Trump has directed the Army Corps of Engineers to immediately approve the final step of the pipeline.

In the freezing cold, Native people are putting their bodies on the line and resisting this injustice by Trump. Thousands are joining them again, including our own community members. Together, they will be facing highly militarized forces. We must show equal fortitude!

Join us on February 16 to Plan Support for the Resistance!

Speakers:

MC: Judith Baker, Member, Dorchester People for Peace

Mariama White Hammond, Minister, Bethel AME Church
Emmy Rainwalker, Social Justice Activist and Support for Vets at Camp
Wyze Love, Native American Activist
Jude Glaubman, Water Protector Legal Collective at Standing

Criminal Justice in Massachusetts: How it's Broken and Ways to Fix it

When: Thus Feb 16, 7:00 PM to 8:30 PM

Where: Fist Parish in Concord, (In the Sanctuary)

Bryan Stevenson, lawyer and activist, has written: "We have a system of justice that treats you much better if you're rich and guilty than if you're poor and innocent."

In Massachusetts, many policies work against equal and fair treatment of citizens who enter the criminal justice system. Please join us for a panel discussion with three people who have been affected by unjust policies and/or worked toward reducing mass incarceration and its far reaching consequences for individuals and society at large. Leave with ideas of how you can participate in criminal justice reform.

Panel Members:

State Senator Mike Barrett, D-Lexington, Chair of the senate's investigative committee

Clarence Blevins, recently released after serving a number of years in prison.

Louellyn Lambros steering committee member of EMIT (End Mass Incarceration Together, UU Mass Action leadership team)

Action & Event: Update From The Economic Equity In Politics - CWG EEP **Represent.Us: Massachusetts is on the shortlist**

We are hearing from Represent.US that MA has a good chance of being one of the 4-8 states in which they will work to pass a state-wide anti-corruption law in 2018. Below are some of the details and a link where you can "[sign on](#)" to this effort in MA.

Represent.Us chapters across the country, with the help of expert political strategists, worked together to identify 12 target states where we could pass Anti-Corruption Acts in 2018.

These states ... offer our best hope for sweeping anti-corruption reform in the next 2 years — if we can build enough power.

We're not moving forward in all of them. But we will in **the 4 to 8 states that build the most power** with volunteers, energy and political climate.

Here's what it will take to win. Will you help us get there?

Massachusetts

- Chapters: **2/3 needed to win GETTING CLOSE!**
- Volunteers: **48/1,317 needed to win**
- Members: **19,298/10,975 needed to win READY!**

Add your name to help build power for a 2018 Anti-Corruption Act in your state.

From Greater Boston We the People

Come hear guest speaker Pam Wilmot, Executive Director of Common Cause Massachusetts

This month, we are pleased to host Pam Wilmot, Executive Director of Common Cause Massachusetts, to talk about historical and current efforts to strengthen democracy and curb the influence of money in politics here in the state. In particular, Pam will have information about a new bill recently filed to [ban spending to influence state elections by any foreign influenced corporation.](#)

Also, after our great success securing co-sponsors for the We the People Act, we will talk about plans for more outreach and education.

Our next Greater Boston We the People MA meeting will take place on:

Thursday, February 16 (always the 3rd Thursday of the month) 7 p.m.
The Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge

(the DC is not wheelchair accessible, please contact info@democracycenter.org or [617-492-8855](tel:617-492-8855) to discuss improvement plans or your accessibility needs)

Harvard Square T and lots of on-street parking available nearby.

Please email boston@WtPMass.org for more information.

To contact us or to join the Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group, please go to:
<http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/EEP-CWG>

#StandUpForScience Rally

When: Sun Feb 19, noon - 1:30 PM

Where: Copley Square, Boston (560 Boylston St)

Thousands of scientists will be in town for the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) annual conference—the first one since anti-science forces and climate deniers took over the highest office in the land. **Join scientists, allies and impacted communities for a rally and help #StandUpforScience! [RSVP on Facebook.](#)**

Lead Sponsor: 350 MA for a Better Future

Divest from the Dakota Access Pipeline!

Action: Sat Feb 25th, 11:00 - 1:00 PM

Where: Bank of America in Harvard Square, 1414 Mass Ave

Join with other allies in this solidarity action to tell the banks funding the Dakota Access Pipeline to DIVEST NOW, and to support fellow protesters in closing their accounts!

Sponsored by the Medicine Wheel Solidarity Network and the Democracy Center.

Learn more and sign up [here.](#)

350 MA For Better Future: Berkshires Training
When: Sat Feb 25, 10:30 - 4:00 PM
Where: UU Church in Pittsfield, 175 Wendall Ave, Pittsfield



We are so excited to get together and host a training in the Berkshires! Please join us to learn about strategies for new member outreach, our current state legislative work, and our fight for 100% Renewable Cities. [RSVP here](#).

Film: Gathering Our Hearts at Standing Rock
When: Sun Feb 26 at 1:00 PM
Where: UU Meeting House of South Berkshire, 1089 Main St in Housatonic

“Gathering Our Hearts At Standing Rock” a documentary in process by Fidel Moreno followed by a panel discussion of Standing Rock, the CT pipeline and water protection concerns closer to home.

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Creating Sanctuary - UU College of Social Justice and UURISE

This webinar will be led by the [UU College of Social Justice](#) and Katia Hansen, President and CEO of [UU Refugee & Immigrant Services and Education \(UURISE\)](#), and will focus specifically on what it means to become a Sanctuary congregation and how to get there. We'll also consider other ways to be in solidarity with those most at risk in this new political landscape.

Open to all: The Path Toward Sanctuary: A Practical Guide
Monday, February 27 7:00-9:00 pm (ET)

Register here: <https://uusc.zoom.us/webinar/register/0fc7045d80e5cfcf7c24e00bf0acd2b8>

HOSTED BY THE NEW ENGLAND REGION G.R.A.C.E. TEAM
(Growing Racial And Cultural Equity)

REGISTER NOW for these FREE sessions

Waking Up to Whiteness in Your Congregation

February 28, 7:00 - 8:30 PM

Recent events have made it clearer to many that we do not live in a post-racial country. Whiteness is still the default culture in many of our institutions - including our congregations. Are you hoping to inspire and support your congregation to look at its culture to see how whiteness may be limiting your ministries and welcome? Whether you attended the GRACE Summit in November or not, you are sure to get some ideas for addressing whiteness in your congregation from this web conversation. We'll explore the concept of whiteness and consider strategies and best practices for lovingly waking folks up to whiteness.



Beyond Banners *TBA, mid-March*

So, your congregation has a Black Lives Matter banner. Now what? How do you continue your commitment to social and racial justice beyond the banner? Come learn with others who are considering the same questions you are. *[If interested, register now and we'll let you know when the date is as soon as it's set. We understand the date might not work for you and will adjust accordingly.]*

It's Our Future - Environmental Legislative Forum

When: Wed March 1, 7:00 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM)

Where: First Parish in Framingham, 24 Vernon St, Framingham

Join us for a discussion of Massachusetts legislation that has been proposed for the current session to address climate and renewable energy issues. We will be joined by State Senators Karen Spilka and Jamie Eldridge, as well as State Representatives Chris Walsh, Carmine Gentile and Jack Lewis.

We the People - Fixing Our Broken Democracy

When: Thur March 2, 7:00 - 8:45 PM

Where: Maynard Public Library in the Roosevelt Room, 77 Nason St., Maynard (parking and entrance is behind the building)

"Fixing Our Broken Democracy" traces the evolution of corporate power and the loss of our democracy through an engaging multimedia presentation and small group discussions. We end by discussing legislation pending in Massachusetts that would make the state a leader in promoting the US Constitutional Amendment that we need to take back our democracy.

30th Local Environmental Action Conference!

When: Sun March 5, 8:30 AM - 6:00 PM

Where: Northeastern University's Curry Center, Boston

Lead Sponsors: Toxic Action Center & Mass Climate Action Network [Register](#)

Register now for the opportunity to join community leaders, environmental advocates and activists from across New England for an exciting day of skills training, networking, and inspiration. Whether you have been to every conference or are attending for the first time, be sure not to miss this amazing opportunity to connect and grow our grassroots movement.

[Keynote Speakers: Lois Gibbs and Kandi Mossett](#)

Kandi Mossett (Mandan, Hidatsa, Arikara – North Dakota) has emerged as a leading voice in the fight to bring visibility to the impacts that climate change and environmental injustice are having on Indigenous communities across North America.

Lois Gibbs has lead many environmental movements for several decades. She initially became alarmed about reports of chemical waste in her neighborhood in Niagara Falls, New York.

New England Regional Assembly - Register now!

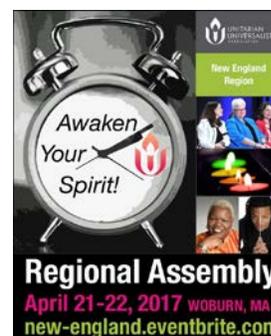
When: Fri April 21 & Sat April 22

Where: Hilton, Boston/Woburn, 2 Forbes Rd, Woburn MA

[See flyer for more details](#) [REGISTER](#)

Celebrate our Unitarian Universalist Faith through inspired worship, music, engaged learning, fun and fellowship. Meet UUA presidential candidates. Sing. Reflect. Make Connections. Awaken your spirit!

See



RESOURCES

Consumers for Sensible Energy, MassPLAN, Mass Energy Consumers Alliance released a report this week on Access NE. Here is the [Report](#) from Synapse.

Highlights: pipeline will cost ~\$6.6 billion (that's twice what it is being estimated as the cost);

- Even if pipeline does what proponents say it will regarding winter demand, it will cost NE consumers more overall, not less
- Given all laws and regulations around increases in renewable energy and decreases in greenhouse gas emissions, use of gas for electric generation will decrease by 23% in next 15 years, and will drop dramatically in 1.5 years after ANE would come online.
- With electricity demand flat, new energy like wind and hydro would displace existing fossil fuels. By 2030, 41% decrease use of natural gas for electric generation.

When you click the link, you'll see the summary of the report. The entire 74 page report can be viewed here: <http://www.synapse-energy.com/sites/default/files/New-Englands-Shrinking-Need-for-Natural-Gas-16-109.pdf>

Link to summary: <http://www.synapse-energy.com/about-us/blog/access-northeast-pipe-dream>

Through a joint UUSC, UUA, and College of Social Justice's Solidarity and Sanctuary initiative, the **Congregational Action Guide** has been published which offers a wide range of suggested actions related to making municipalities, counties, and schools safer, more welcoming for all – particularly undocumented immigrants, Muslims, people of color, and the LGBTQ community. The actions vary in the amount of energy and experience required so as to provide ideas for congregations of different sizes, capacities, and political environments. Some are geared towards policy advocacy while others involve developing and strengthening relationships with grassroots groups doing local organizing. There is also a category of possible discernment steps.

You can find it at: <http://uucsj.org/solidarity-sanctuary-options-for-congregational-action/>

Save the Date!

UUJEC: Reversing Inequality Conference

When: April 3-5

Where: Washington DC

For registration and more information Click [HERE](#)

UU Mass Action Advocacy Day!!

When: Tue April 11, 10:00 - 4:00 PM

Where: Arlington St Church, 351 Boylston St, Boston & The State House

People's Climate March

When: Sat April 29, 9:00 AM

Where: Washington DC

For more details, see [Facebook Event Page](#)

UU Mass Action is pleased to announce we received a grant award from the

[New England Grassroots Environmental Fund](#) for \$1,850!

We are grateful for the generous support of our climate Justice work!

