



Newsletter Date: 3/6/17

We believe our faith calls us to change the world

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

**We have a new phone number at UU Mass Action
617-356-7737**

ACTION

Two More Weeks for the Early Bird Discount! UU Mass Action Advocacy Day 2017

When: April 11th, 9:30 AM to 4:00 PM

Where: Arlington Street Church & The State House

[Register HERE](#)

Now until March 20th:

\$25 Standard Registration and \$12 Reduced Fee

Starting March 21st, the Registration Fee is \$35



Keynote Speaker:
Rev. Paul Robeson Ford,
Senior Pastor of the Union
Baptist Church, Cambridge



Worship Leader:
Rev. John Gibbons,
Senior Minister at
First Parish in Bedford



Musician:
Rev Fred Small,
Climate Justice Minister,
Arlington Street Church

Register before March 21st and let us know if you'll be a group leader. A group leader will:

1. Make the appointment with your senator and/or representative
2. Lead the meeting with the legislators on UU Advocacy Day
3. Communicate with the group prior to UU Advocacy Day - we'll provide all you'll need to make this happen!

Note: you can still register for UU Advocacy Day after March 21st, but the fee goes up to \$35 for everyone. Also, you'll miss the opportunity to coordinate with your group.

What happens after March 20th? UU Mass Action will contact the group leaders and provide:

- A video explaining how to prepare for UU Advocacy Day, issue overview
- Bill priorities overview and fact sheets
- Suggestions for how to prepare your group for the meeting(s)
- Information about affective advocacy
- Info about your specific legislators - did they sponsor / co-sponsor the bills
- A chance to ask questions before UU Advocacy Day

To see the agenda, [Click HERE](#)

Download the flyer [HERE](#) - please post and help us spread the word! [Share the Facebook Event Link!](#)

NEW: Click [here to see if your legislator supports our priority bills](#)

WHAT'S HAPPENING WITH SANCTUARY & SOLIDARITY?

At UU Mass Action we're trying hard to keep up with all your email questions about supporting our immigrant friends and neighbors. It's a challenge to keep up with everyone's individual questions, but we're doing our best! The best way to stay informed is to:



1. Check out the wonderful resources on the [UU College of Social Justice website](#)
2. Complete an [individual supporter form](#) We'll add you to the communication list and you'll receive periodic updates about what's happening
3. UU Mass Action is working with an interfaith team of allies as well as communicating with Massachusetts immigrant leaders. We are sharing resources and working to coordinate our efforts. Currently, we are developing a network of clusters. Clusters are city/town groups of individuals and faith organizations who want to be involved. Developing clusters that meet regularly and communicate together is necessary to develop an effective rapid response network. If you want to be part of a cluster, please make sure we know who you are! If you are not already on the communication list, fill out an [individual supporter](#) form and we'll add you.
4. Let your legislator know that you support the [Safe Communities Act](#) and you want them to, as well. Don't know who your legislator is? Find out [HERE](#) and then give them a call!

#NoBanNoWall

Commonwealth Conversations - Let your voice be heard!

Public statewide forums are being held with state Senators as part of the Commonwealth Conversations initiative. The next two are March 7th in Brockton and March 14th in Worcester.

Tuesday, March 7th

6:45pm – 8:30pm

Dr. W Arnone Community School

135 Belmont St # 1

Brockton MA 02301

Hosts: Senator Vinny de Macedo, Senator Julian Cyr, and Senator Michael Brady

Tuesday, March 14th

6:30pm – 8:30pm

Seven Hills Foundation

81 Hope Avenue

Worcester, MA 01603

Hosts: Senator Harriette Chandler, Senator Anne Gobi, Senator Jen Flanagan, Senator Ryan Fattman, and Senator Michael Moore

For those who cannot make it, you will be able to submit testimony online. See the Commonwealth Conversations [website](#) and [Facebook page](#) for more details. Additional forums will take place on:

March 21st - Northeast

Hosted by: Senator Kathleen O'Connor Ives, Senator Bruce Tarr, Senator Eileen Donoghue, and Senator Barbara L'Italien

March 28th - Western Mass

Hosted by: Senator Don Humason, Senator Adam Hinds, Senator Eric Lesser, Senator Jim Welch, and Senate President Stan Rosenberg

April 4 - MetroWest

Hosted by: Senator Jamie Eldridge, Senator Karen Spilka, Senator Cynthia Creem and Senator Mike Barrett

April 11 - North Shore

Hosted by: Senator Joan Lovely, Senator Sal DiDomenico, Senator Jason Lewis, Senator Ken Donnelly and Thomas McGee

In addition, **Representative Jeffrey Sanchez** is also hosting [community forums](#) to learn which issues and bills are most important to his constituents. Make sure the Safe Communities Act is on that list!

His next two forums are on March 20th and 23rd in Boston. [RSVP on Facebook](#).

Monday, March 20 - Mission Hill/Brookline

6:30pm to 8pm

MCPHS 6th Floor

670 Huntington Ave.

Boston, MA 02115

Thursday, March 23 - Jamaica Plain/Roslindale

6:30pm to 8pm

First Baptist Church

633 Centre Street

What's Happening with Climate Action?

There were a number of strong bill climate action bills filed this session. UU Mass Action, in collaboration with MA Power Forward, we have identified [9 priorities](#). There are other bills that also excellent, and we will track their progress but won't be directly involved in their advocacy. We are grateful to have more bills filed than we can directly be involved with that move us towards 100% clean, renewable energy by 2050!

Eversource Rate increase:

On January 17, 2017, Eversource Energy submitted a proposal to the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) to update the company's electric rates. The proposal requests a net increase in annual delivery revenue of \$60.2 million, representing a [7 percent increase](#) in those revenues to support our electric distribution operations.

Eversource's request addresses increases in operating and maintenance costs and capital costs associated with investments in the electric network since the last decision by the DPU approving a general distribution rate increase in 2006.

The DPU will conduct public hearings in Eversource's service area, and then make a decision by November 30, 2017 for new rates to become effective January 1, 2018.

Public Hearing Schedule

March 22 at 7 p.m.

Natick Town Hall
2nd Floor, Board of Selectmen's Meeting Room
13 East Central Street
Natick, MA 01760

Harborview Conference Room
3195 Main Street
Barnstable, MA 02630

April 5 at 7 p.m.

Keith Middle School
225 Hathaway Boulevard
New Bedford, MA 02740

March 23 at 7 p.m.

Department of Public Utilities
5th Floor, Hearing Room A
One South Station
Boston, MA 02110

April 6 at 7 p.m.

Plymouth South High School
490 Long Pond Road
Plymouth, MA 02360

March 30 at 6 p.m.

Cambridge Public Library
Lecture Hall
449 Broadway
Cambridge, MA 02138

April 10 at 6 p.m.

The Berkshire Athenaeum Auditorium
1 Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

April 3 at 7 p.m.

Barnstable County Complex

April 12 at 7 p.m.

Springfield City Hall
School Committee Meeting Room
(Room 220)

36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

DPU Public Hearing Schedule, Continued:

April 24 at 6 p.m.

Katharine Cornell Theatre
51 Spring Street
Tisbury, MA 02568

April 26 at 7 p.m.

Greenfield Middle School Auditorium
195 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

[More info: March 1 Globe article](#) [AG Maura Healey opposes \\$96 Million increase](#)

RESULTS OF THE WE THE PEOPLE ACT CO-SPONSORSHIP DRIVE

66 State Representatives and 19 State Senators have co-sponsored the We the People Act ([House Bill H.1926 and Senate Bill S.379](#)). Check out the list at: <http://www.WeThePeopleMass.org/cosponsor-list/> to see if your State Representative and Senator are among them. If so, please call or email them to thank them personally. (If you are unsure who your State Representative and Senator are, the above web page has instructions for finding them.)

If your State Representative missed the Feb. 3 co-sponsorship deadline, ask him or her to send a letter of support for House bill H.1926 to the House Clerk. **There is still plenty of time** for your State Senator to co-sponsor Senate Bill S.379.

Please consider submitting a letter to the editor of your local newspaper to thank your legislator(s) publicly. Feel free to use or adapt the sample letter at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0BxSxbWVlwyo2NUxjVGFvLWxmZEU/view> You can also use a version of the letter to thank your legislator(s) if they co-sponsored the bills or to request support from your legislator(s) if they didn't co-sponsor the bills.

Thank you for supporting this important cause. As we state in the sample letter, **our democracy is in crisis**. In its annual worldwide democracy index, the respected news magazine The Economist recently downgraded the United States from a "full democracy" to a "flawed democracy." A study conducted by political scientists from Princeton and Northwestern concluded that the U.S. is now an oligarchy controlled by "economic elites."

Supreme Court decisions such as Citizens United v. FEC have opened the floodgates to the corrupting influence of big money in politics. How can we realize Lincoln's vision of government of, by and for the people while corporations and billionaires use their prodigious financial resources to bend government policies to serve their own narrow self-interests?

In the wake of Citizens United, groups around the country are calling for a 28th constitutional amendment to establish that corporations and other artificial entities are not people, and money is not speech. Five states (VT, CA, IL, NJ and RI) have already called for an amendment convention to propose

such an amendment. Massachusetts, the cradle of American democracy, should join them by passing the We the People Act ([H.1926 and S.379](#)). State legislators hold the key to amending the Constitution to make our government more responsive and accountable to We the People.

You can help gun violence prevention efforts in Massachusetts right now Gun lobby attempting to overturn AG enforcement

The NRA is urging its supporters to call Massachusetts lawmakers in regards to two bills that challenge Attorney General Maura Healey's strong stance on the state's assault weapons ban:

SD 1157, sponsored by state Senator Don Humason (R- Second Hampden and Hampshire), would remove the Attorney General's authority to regulate firearms and would repeal the previous regulations.

SD 1889, sponsored by state Senator Anne Gobi (D- Worcester, Hampden, Hampshire and Middlesex), would eliminate the term "copy" from statute, thereby, eliminating the premise behind the Attorney General's actions last year to enforce our state's ban on assault weapons.

The MA Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence urges UU Mass Action members to write and call their MA state legislators to oppose both of these bills. The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence does not deny citizens their right to own a gun, but instead works to keep guns out of the hands of individuals who should not possess them. The Coalition also believes that ordinary citizens do not need to own assault weapons. We applaud the work of Attorney General Healey in carrying out the full meaning of the Massachusetts laws limiting assault weapons, including copy-cat weapons.

You can find your legislator's contact information at this link:

<https://malegislature.gov/Search/FindMyLegislator>

Support Positive Steps from Mass Medical, AG's Office and Law Enforcement

The Massachusetts Coalition to Prevent Gun Violence applauds Attorney General Healey and the medical community who rightly frame the crisis of gun violence as a public health issue.

We celebrate the work of Attorney General Maura Healey and the Massachusetts Medical Society for their efforts in primary prevention. This week, they announced plans to provide a voluntary continuing education course and pamphlets for patients and providers to help physicians who want to engage patients in discussions on gun safety!

Gun violence is a public health issue and our health care providers are often on the front lines. They play a critical role in preventing gun-related injuries and deaths, however many do not feel they have the information they need to discuss gun safety with their patients. This new effort has been endorsed by both the MA Chiefs of Police and the MA Major Cities Chief Association.

Click [here to view the materials](#) and check out Attorney General Maura Healey's full press conference [here](#).

It is important our elected officials know we are paying attention and **support them when they act on our values. Share the news about this new initiative on social media!**

Sample Facebook Posts:

* Each year, 33,000 Americans are killed by guns. Doctors and nurses can help by knowing how to talk about gun safety with their patients. AG Maura Healey's plan with the Mass Medical Society for voluntary patient and provider-centered gun-safety materials will help save lives. <http://bit.ly/2IJ4que>

Sample Tweets:

* Doctors and nurses can help stop gun deaths and injuries by knowing how to talk about gun safety with their patients. <http://bit.ly/2IJ4que>

* Mass. has the lowest rate of gun-related violence. We can lower that more by engaging with patients about gun safety <http://bit.ly/2IJ4que>

* [@MassAGO](#), @MassMedical's voluntary patient and provider-centered gun-safety materials will help save lives. <http://bit.ly/2IJ4que>

EVENTS, EDUCATION AND FORUMS

Looking for ways to live you values?

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

North Bridge American Promise Association

Tuesday, March 7, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM

First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord



If you are interested in working with local members of a national group focused on amending the Constitution so that people, not money, govern in America, please come to this event. We will learn how we can help move the *We the People Act* now in our state legislature, volunteer on an upcoming 28th Amendment ballot initiative, and take action as part of the national [Citizens Uprising](#).

State Senator Jamie Eldridge and Representative Carmine Gentile, the lead sponsors of the *We the People Act*, will speak at the meeting. Please click on this link to [RSVP](#) to the American Promise Association. All are welcome.

Vigil: Remember Fukushima 3/11/2011

When: Sat March 11, 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM

Where: Hyannis Town Green, Main Street, Hyannis



No More Fukushimas - Shut down Pilgrim now!
Lead organizer, Cape Downwinders [Download Flyer](#)

**Reclaiming Our Democracy,
sponsored by Americans for Economic Fairness**

When: Mon March 13, 7:00 to 9:00 P.M.

Where: First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Road, Concord



Following up on our very successful January event *Reclaiming Our Democracy*, we will watch and then discuss a TED Talk by Larry Lessig titled *Our Democracy No Longer Represents the People. Here's How We Fix It*. Participants will then work in small groups on tasks such as event planning, designing a logo, creating a web site, writing a song, researching related groups, developing written materials and getting our message out.

Come and enjoy homemade refreshments. All are welcome. Please click [here](#) and let us know if you plan to attend.

For more information contact Fred Van Deusen at fredvandeu@gmail.com.

Creation Care Leadership Through Organizing

When: Four Saturday afternoons: March 18 & 25, April 1 & 8

Where: Bethel AME, 40 Walk Hill St, Jamaica Plain, MA 02130; Embassy Room, Youth Center

Register today at: <http://conta.cc/2klahUg>

Registration limited and available on first come first served basis. No Fee. Two Participants per congregation recommended – no more than three. A light meal will be served. Convenient to MBTA Orange Line, Forest Hills station and buses. All faiths welcome!

For more information, contact: Vince Maraventano: vince@MIPandL.org or 617-244-0755

Topics: • New Creation Care Ethics — How Climate, Economic & Social Justice are related • Psychology of Climate Change — Honoring Our Fears • Climate Conversations — Communicating Effectively about Climate Change • Introduction to Public Narrative — The Story of Self • Building Strong Teams — The Story of Us • Effective Goal Setting & Campaign Strategy — The Story of Now

Speakers:

Rev Mariam White-Hammond Minister of Ecological Justice Bethel A.M.E. Church

Vince Maraventano, M.Div. Executive Director MA Interfaith Power & Light,

Emily Kirkland Director of Organizing 350 Mass. for a Better Future

Andy Gordon Legislative Coordinator 350 Mass. for a Better Future

Lead sponsor: MA Interfaith Power & Light

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission Public Meeting
Annual Assessment and Results of Phase “C” Inspection**

When: Tue March 21, 7:00 PM

Where: Memorial Hall, 83 Court St, Plymouth

Is an accident the only acceptable criteria for the NRC to close Pilgrim?

Come speak up to shut Pilgrim Down now! www.capedownwinders.info

Carpool: <https://www.groupcarpool.com/t/hwyj29>

[Download Flyer](#)

Sanctuary and Solidarity Gathering

When: Thur March 23, 6:30 PM

Where: First Church in Boston UU, 66 Marlborough St, Boston

Join us as we continue to build our sanctuary and solidarity network. At this gathering we will discuss the latest updates on the interfaith sanctuary and solidarity movement. We will also work on skill building together. You'll have an opportunity to learn about asset mapping, building our rapid response network and the growing developing of cluster networks. All are welcome!

A light dinner will be available. [Please RSVP on Facebook](#)

FORUM on PreTrial Justice and the Massachusetts Bail Fund

When: Sat March 25, 1:00 to 3:00 pm

Where: All Souls Church, 196 Elm Street, Braintree 781 843 1388

Handicap Accessible [Download Flyer](#)

Most people incarcerated in any given year have not been convicted of anything. They simply cannot afford bail, however small it may be, to be able to wait at home for their court date. Come learn about the state of pretrial justice, legislative efforts to reform bail on Beacon Hill, and how the Massachusetts Bail Fund is making a difference in five counties.

Speakers:

Atara Rich-Shea, Operations Director of the Mass Bail Fund who will give us an overview on Pretrial Justice

Meghann Perry, Public Speaker and Recovery Coach who will share her personal experience

Free to attend. Refreshments will be served. RSVP requested but not required

to agdgs@aol.com Facebook page link <https://www.facebook.com/events/216528878753296/>

The Politics of Justice: Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform in Massachusetts

When: Sat March 25, 12:45-5:00 PM

Where: First Parish Unitarian Universalist of Arlington, 630 Mass. Ave. in Arlington Center

Preregister at <http://tinyurl.com/hf43b6v> [Download Flyer](#)

Everyone agrees that the criminal justice system should be fair and effective, but how do we get there from here? Come learn about key bills that were recently filed at the State House and would contribute to truly comprehensive criminal justice reform. After a panel, panelists and participants will talk in smaller groups about how to move forward on the bills that most interest them.

Speakers include:

- **Sen. Will Brownsberger** on the Council of State Governments omnibus bill
- **Middlesex District Attorney Marian Ryan** on restorative justice
- **Idris Abdullah** of Teens Leading the Way on juvenile justice
- **Sen. Ken Donnelly** on mental health issues and pretrial reform
- **Cassandra Bensahih** of Jobs Not Jails on the Justice Reinvestment Act
- **Rahsaan Hall** of the ACLU-MA's Racial Justice Program on the racial implications of this season's proposed legislation.

There will be also time for networking and action opportunities, and Bill Gardiner, Colleen Kirby and Rep. Dave Rogers will offer an optional 30-minute workshop on interacting effectively with legislators.

This forum is organized by the Mass Incarceration Working Group and co-sponsored by 25 organizations. Questions? Email end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info

Performance: Mariposa and the Saint

["Mariposa and the Saint"](#) is a powerful, informative, free 45-minute play based on the true story (told through letters to the playwright/actor) of how a year in solitary can break your spirit.

PLEASE INVITE your state representative to join you at a performance OR Invite your state legislators **to attend a free performance on Tuesday, March 28** at the Statehouse. This performance is for legislators and staff only. [Find Your Legislator here](#) Performance is: Tue Feb 28th at 12 noon, Room 428

FREE Performances

1. **Wednesday March 22, 2:30 pm:** UMASS Boston, Ryan Lounge, McCormack Building, 3rd Floor
 2. **Thursday, March 23, Noon:** Boston City Hall, Ianella Chamber, 5th Floor
 3. **Saturday, March 25, 7 pm:** Unitarian Society of Amherst, 121 N. Pleasant Street, Amherst, MA
 4. For Statehouse Staff/electeds only: Tuesday, March 28, 12 noon, Room 428.
-

UU Mass Action will host the Philadelphia based Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT)

When: Sat April 1, (Time TBD)

Location: (We're looking for accessible space - let us know if your church can host, 50-75 people are expected)

UU Mass Action will host the Philadelphia based Earth Quaker Action Team (EQAT) for a presentation on their groundbreaking *Power Local Green Jobs* campaign. EQAT gained fame for a five-year non-violent civil disobedience campaign in which they successfully forced one of the country's largest banks, PNC, to divest from mountaintop removal coal mining. EQAT's new campaign seeks to force their local utility company to radically increase their investment in renewable energy in a way that specifically creates jobs and benefits people in low income communities.

We will hear about their new [campaign](#), and discuss what it would look like for UUs to participate in a similar campaign in the Boston area.

Speaker: [Lina Blount](#), EQAT board member and volunteer organizer

For more info or to volunteer: contact Evan Seitz at [413-687-8444](tel:413-687-8444), or eseitz@uumassaction.org

Centro Presente & First Parish in Concord Present:

The Invisible Crisis: The Female Face of Forced Migration

When: Sun April 2, 11:30 - 1:00 PM

Where: First Parish in Concord, 20 Lexington Rd., Concord

RSVP: [Facebook Page](#)

Centro Presente has produced the short documentary "The Invisible Crisis: The Female Face of Forced Migration" to bring the stories of Central America women to light. Please take a moment to watch it here. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iINd0WG3-cl>

One group of women perhaps with the most to lose under a Trump Presidency are the women migrants fleeing violence and social instability in their home countries. Victims of systemic human rights abuses in their countries of origin, they come to the U.S. seeking to survive and to save the lives of their children. Yet upon arrival to this "nation of immigrants" they again see their human rights abused by a system that fails to recognize their plight and their humanity. Until now their stories have been invisible.

Join us for a showing of this documentary followed by a conversation with one of these women about the realities confronted by undocumented immigrants in these times of Trump. Please let us know if you are interested in Centro Presente coming to your Congregation, organization or school to host such an event by sending an email to Patricia Montes, pmontes@cpresente.org

Immigrants Day at the State House

When: Wed April 5, 9:00 - 2:00 PM

Where: State House, Boston, Hall of Flags

Lead Organizer: MIRA (Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Network)

It's that time again! With everything that is happening at a national level it is more important than ever that immigrant voices are heard at the state level. This year we will be focusing on the [Safe Communities Act](#), a bill to protect the civil liberties of ALL Massachusetts residents and making sure that our legislators stand against the anti-immigrant policies coming out of the White House. [Please register online here!](#) More info to follow.

If you'd like to be involved in planning the event, please come join us

NEXT TUESDAY, MARCH 7th @ 6PM in the MIRA offices.

In solidarity, The MIRA Organizing Team

Webinar: Beyond Banners

Hosted by The New England Region G.R.A.C.E. Team (Growing Racial and Cultural Equity)

[REGISTER NOW](#) FREE session

When: April 10, 7:00 PM

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.]*

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!



RESOURCES

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/>

[Blog Post: How to Fight for Justice in a Jeff Sessions and Donald Trump America](#)
[By Tony Webster, 2/10/17](#)

Save the Date!

UUJEC: Reversing Inequality Conference

When: April 3-5

Where: Washington DC

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

People’s Climate March

When: Sat April 29, 9:00 AM

Where: Washington DC

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

Is your congregation organizing a bus?
Do you have room for more people?
Let us know!

Lwagner@uumassaction.org
