



Newsletter Date: 4/10/17

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ACTION

UU Advocacy Day is Tomorrow!

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

Where: Arlington Street Church & The State House

Haven't registered yet? You still can:

[REGISTER HERE!](#)



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

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

Keynote: Rev. Paul Robeson Ford, Union Baptist Church, Cambridge

See bio's [HERE](#)

Here's some resources to help you prepare:

[Agenda for the Day](#)

[How Laws are made in Massachusetts](#)

[Effective Advocacy Strategies](#) [Bill fact sheets, helpful resources and video overviews of each issue area](#)

[Spreadsheet: Bill co-sponsor/sponsors](#) [Spreadsheets: committees, members and bill placements](#)

UUA Developments

Laura Wagner, Executive Director

As many of you may know, UUA President Rev. [Peter Morales resigned his position on April 1st](#). On April 5th, [CEO Rev. Harlan Limpert and the head of Congregational Life, Rev. Scott Taylor, also resigned](#). You are encouraged to read about what led to these developments which center on UUA hiring practices and the perpetuation of white supremacy culture in our faith.

Our board member, Rev Aaron Payson, UU Church of Worcester, wrote the following to his congregation in response to the situation. He gave his permission to reprint it here.

On White Supremacy and the Future of our Religious Movement: A Pastoral Letter

Rev. Aaron Payson

Beloved,

Many of us received the news last week of the resignation of the Rev. Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, with shock and sadness. More so, the allegations of continuing racist hiring practices within our Association have evoked outrage, anger, and a moment, among many in our history, for humility and a desire to act on the principles that we hold in common as a liberal religious movement.

There is a legacy within our movement, as there is within the history of our country and the larger history of White, European, supremacy, privilege and imperialism within our world, of the insidious nature of white supremacy that has been maintained, and spread through religious, political and social systems, most especially in those countries where the institution of slavery is or was common place.

"White supremacy is the conscious or unconscious belief or the investment in the inherent superiority of some, while others are believed to be innately inferior. And it doesn't demand the individual participation of the singular bigot. It is a machine operating in perpetuity, because it doesn't demand that somebody be in place driving." - Michael Eric Dyson

While there has been progress over time, often the outcome of protracted experiences of bloody and brutal acts of violence, resistance and warfare, racism and white supremacy remain as bedrock challenges to the vision we hold of a nation of free people called to a life of liberty and the pursuit of happiness, this vision continues to be illusive today for so many of citizens of this country and the world, including many qualified leaders of color within our own religious movement.

That our Association must continue to confront this legacy, in the face of hiring practices that are a product of the very systems of oppression we have historically resolved to resist and transform - an Association that continues to be overwhelmingly white in membership and leadership - is an opportunity for reflection that we are not immune to systems of oppression and white supremacy and it is an opportunity for prophetic transformation, action and witness.

In a letter from a group of UU colleagues of color sent to the UUA Board of Trustees, the Trustees and our movement have been called to a time of prophetic discernment and action. In addition, Black Lives of UU have called for congregations in our movement to participate in a

#WhiteSupremacyTeachIn which UUCW will honor on Sunday, May 7

I invite all members and friends of congregation interested in helping to plan this service to contact me. It is my hope that this event will compel us as a congregation to consider and plan ongoing opportunities for learning, dialogue and action within our own institution and the communities we serve.

We have pondered this issue recently, thanks to the workshops sponsored by the Escalating Inequality Task Force. Our work, however, is not done and must continue. Please join us in this ongoing effort and please keep our liberal religious movement and those who continue to be marginalized by the racism in our midst in your thoughts, meditations and prayers.

IMMIGRATION UPDATES

First Parish in Bedford Votes to Become a Sanctuary Congregation!

Will you support Bedford by contributing to the Faithify Campaign? [Click HERE](#)



On Sunday, April 2nd, 2017, the congregation of the First Parish in Bedford, MA, Unitarian Universalist voted overwhelmingly to become a sanctuary for an immigrant(s) resisting deportation.

This means that the congregation is willing to provide a haven, under the “Sensitive Location” guideline of federal immigration authorities, to people who are refusing to submit to deportation orders as an act of moral protest.

A collective statement read aloud by Sanctuary Task Force co-chair Christine Dudley-Marling at the congregational meeting explained the decision as follows: “Immigrant and refugee communities are under unprecedented assault in the United States. Immigrants face the threat of separation from their families, communities, and workplaces through prolonged detention and mass deportation – in many cases, to some of the most dangerous places in the world. As Unitarian Universalists, we are called to oppose these threats to our neighbors and to stand in solidarity with the immigrant community.”

Signaling the urgency of the issue, the Special Meeting to reach a decision on the matter took place outside the normal parish meeting calendar. Despite the length of the proceedings, which clocked in at nearly an hour and a half, nearly 150 members of the congregation stayed to the end to make their voices heard in this critical decision. Read the full press release [HERE](#)

Climate Action Opportunities



Join the [People's Climate March](#) in DC: Saturday, April 29, 2017

First Parish in Concord has two buses leaving from their congregation and there are still seats available!

Two buses are being organized from Concord, MA to the national on April 29 in Washington, DC -- **sign up [at the link here!](#)**

Cost is \$110 per seat. Buses depart at 10pm Friday and return early Sunday morning.

The march is 100 days into the new administration to demand action on climate change, climate justice and a renewable future. The march is led by a magnificent coalition of 300 labor, racial justice and environmental groups, including 350.org, Sierra Club, NAACP, Indigenous Environmental Network, SEIU and many more - lots more info at www.peoplesclimate.org.

(Questions to Kate Crosby at cfcrosby@gmail.com or Berni Jenkins at bernijenkins2@gmail.com.)

Flyer about the Concord buses is [here](#)

Can't make it to DC? Come to the Boston People's Climate Mobilization!

When: Sat April 29, 12:00 to 3:30 PM

Where: Boston Common

On April 29, the People's **#ClimateMarch** will bring together hundreds of thousands of people from across the country to demand JOBS, JUSTICE, and REAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS. Here in Boston, we'll have a full day of workshops and activities to build and grow our movement, starting with an energizing rally at 12pm on Boston Common. Join us!

For the full schedule of events and organizing details, see the [Facebook Event Page](#)

UU Young Adult Climate Justice

Join the UUYACJ Network for GROW Climate Justice April 27-30 to prepare for, participate in and reflect on the march.

Whether you're new to activism, or have been in the streets for years, we welcome you to take part in this timely opportunity for UU young adults (18-34 years-old) and friends of diverse faiths to strengthen and renew the relationships, skills, and spiritual practices that fortify our organizing.



We will worship and sing together, share stories and strategies, and learn-by-doing in two hands-on tracks, one focused on Art, Culture & Community Building, and another on Nonviolent Direct & Disruptive Actions, exploring and getting equipped with techniques that we will apply immediately at the People's Climate Mobilization and in the long-haul struggle ahead.

Register for GROW by April 9: <http://buff.ly/2o4N5AQ>

RSVP for the march here: <http://buff.ly/2o51hdk>

Western MA, People Climate March Buses

[Climate Action Now](#) is organizing buses for the April 29 Climate, Jobs & Justice March in DC. Some subsidies available. <https://peoplesclimate.org>

ACTION: Eversource Rate Increase:

Tell the DPU to reject the rate hike - it's bad for consumers and bad for our climate. We need to be investing in renewable energy, not enriching fossil fuels companies and their investors!

[Click Here to Send a Letter](#) [Download Schedule & Talking Points](#)

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.

Attend a Public Hearing!

April 10 at 6 p.m.

The Berkshire Athenaeum Auditorium
1 Wendell Avenue
Pittsfield, MA 01201

April 24 at 6 p.m.

Katharine Cornell Theatre
51 Spring Street
Tisbury, MA 02568

April 12 at 7 p.m.

Springfield City Hall
School Committee Meeting Room
(Room 220)
36 Court Street
Springfield, MA 01103

April 26 at 7 p.m.

Greenfield Middle School Auditorium
195 Federal Street
Greenfield, MA 01301

EMIT Action (End Mass Incarceration Together)

ACTION ALERT from: Susan Tordella, Volunteer Legislative liaison, EMIT

a statewide grassroots all-volunteer working group of Unitarian Universalist Mass Action Network

The visiting hours at Gardner State Prison have been cut to only Friday and half-time on Saturday and Sunday. This creates a hardship for many people because of their work schedules and/or the long travel distances to get to the prison.

Please join us in objecting to the policy by signing this petition:

<http://www.ipetitions.com/petition/do-not-reduce-family-visitation-schedule-at-ncci>

Please join our protest by calling your elected representative to the Governor's Council to demand additional days of visiting hours. Find your rep here.

<http://www.mass.gov/portal/government/govs-council.html>

Other medium-security prisons in Massachusetts have 29 to 39 hours available to visit, Gardner has just 14 hours a week on three days since March 27. Families are very upset because many people who work weekends can now visit on Friday evening.

Because only two adults are allowed to visit at a time, many families will not be able to spread out visits with the new limitations. Other problems include limited visitor parking, a small waiting area that only holds at most 30 people, and an equally small visiting room. Such over-crowding may cause some people to be turned away and unable to visit.

The families of the incarcerated men believe this limited visitation schedule alienates the families and harms children who need to see their father more than once a week. Severely limiting visiting hours does not promote the re-unification of families, and has caused great upset among the men who are incarcerated at Gardner.

Curtailing visitation is not in the spirit of justice and corrections systems reform. Many studies of incarceration and re-entry show evidence that maintaining strong family connections during incarceration leads to lower rates of recidivism and more positive dynamics within a correctional institution.

THANK YOU for signing the petition and calling your governor's council representative.

Visiting schedule for Gardner State Prison

Friday: 1-8:30 pm [Open two periods]

Saturday: 9 am to noon - Last names beginning with A-L, 12-3:30 PM - Last names beginning with M-Z

Sunday: 9 am to noon - Last names beginning with M-Z, 12-3:30 pm - Last names beginning with A-L

Monday-Thursday: No visiting hours for general population

Economic Justice

[Raise Up Mass](#): Support our Economic Justice priorities by attending a meeting with your local legislators. In district meetings are being scheduled to discuss these bills with legislators and bring attention to these important issues. Let me know if you'd like to set up a meeting with your Representative lwagner@uumassaction.org



[HD 2573, SD 1768](#)

Paid Family & Medical Leave

Sen. Karen Spilka

Rep. Ken Gordon

[As well as the Fair Share Amendment](#)

Legislator: Representative Tackey Chan

When: Thur April 13, 6:00 PM

Where: Old City Hall, Lower Level 1305

Hancock St, Quincy

Sponsor: SEIU District 615

Legislator: Representative Paul Tucker

When: Mon April 17, 5:30 PM

Where: 10 Colonial Rd, Salem

Sponsor: American Federal of Teachers

Legislator: Ann Margaret Ferrante

When: Fri April 21, 1:00 PM

Where: In the back room of the Tea Company on Pleasant St,

Gloucester

Sponsor: North Shore Together

If you'd like to attend the meeting with Rep. Ferrante, please contact: Lisa Copland: liscopeland@aol.com
Lisa is coordinating the pre-discussion

[Commonwealth Conversations](#) - Let your voice be heard!

Public statewide forums are being held with state Senators as part of the Commonwealth Conversations initiative. The last one is April 11, North Shore:

Tuesday, April 11, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Higgins Middle School

85 Perkins St, Peabody

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

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.

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

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.

Salem Sanctuary City Council Vote #2

When: Thurs, April 13, 7:00 PM

Where: Salem City Hall, 93 Washington St, Salem

It takes two votes of the City Council to pass the Sanctuary for Peace ordinance. Let's be there to make sure they know we expect them to follow through!

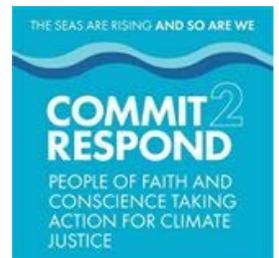
Storytelling for Community & Justice Building, with guest presenter

Jayeeshha Dutta!

Join us for a web and phone-based webinar

When: Thursday, April 13 at 7:30pm Eastern / 4:30 Pacific

[RSVP HERE](#) Organized by [Commit2Respond](#)



Jayeeshha Dutta is the National Community Arts Program Manager for the People's Climate Movement's April 29th mobilization. Jayeeshha is a tri-coastal activist-scholar pursuing a doctorate at the University of New Orleans. She specializes in using art and relationship building for intersectional social justice movements, and is using her skills to support the People's Climate Movement's "circles of resistance to vision our future" story-circle process.

Jayeeshha has been organizing with nearly 100 organizations across the Gulf Coast through the Gulf Future Coalition and Another Gulf Is Possible, since 2013. In 2016, Jayeeshha co-founded the Radical Arts and Healing Collective, an arts-based direct action & healing justice support hub in New Orleans. Jayeeshha will be speaking to the UU Environmental Justice Practitioners Network about using art and storytelling as a tool for community building and change-making, for the People's Climate Movement and beyond.

The Environmental Justice Practitioners Network Webinar Series (a program of the UUA Green Sanctuary Program & UU Ministry for Earth) offers monthly webinars to support Unitarian Universalists pursue environmental justice ministries and partnerships. The webinars typically feature a special guest presenter for 20 minutes, followed by a Q&A period with the presenter and then small group conversations.

Film: Before the Flood

When: Saturday April 15 10AM (doors open at 9:45 AM)

Where: at The Venue Theater in Lexington: Free Event [FLYER](#)



An eye opening and heart inspiring film to help promote climate justice. Actor Leonardo DiCaprio meets with scientists, activists and world leaders to discuss the dangers of climate change and possible solutions.

Immediately following the screening, hear how Massachusetts can show the way for other states in reducing carbon pollution. Learn about carbon pricing and fee rebates. Get the latest information on the April 29 People’s March for Climate, Justice, and Jobs. Find out how you can join with others in taking actions that will make a difference. Now is the time to stand up for our beautiful earth and future generations.

This event is being sponsored by First Parish in Arlington, First Parish in Bedford, First Parish in Concord, First Parish in Lexington, and Follen Church. All are welcome.

For more information contact: Stephen Shick at stephenshick04@gmail.com

UU Mass Action Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group presents:

[Citizens Uniting to Restore the Republic](#)

Local initiatives to combat the corrupting influence of money in politics and advance the ideal of "one person, one vote".

When: Wed April 19, 7-9 P.M.

Where: Theodore Parker Church, 1859 Centre Street, West Roxbury, MA
(Parking available in the nearby Bank of America lot in the evening.)

Money is speech. Corporations are people. #AlternativeFacts? Not so.

Supreme Court decisions have made both the law of the land. However, many groups are working here in Massachusetts to reverse the pernicious effects of these doctrines.

Attend this educational event to learn what you can do to help—starting in your own back yard.

The following organizations will present their views of the challenges we face, outline their strategies for action, and answer your questions:

- **Greater Boston We The People MA**
- **American Promise**
- **Respresent.Us: Boston**
- **Voter Choice Massachusetts**

Co-sponsored by: Progressive West Roxbury/Roslindale, Theodore Parker Church Social Action Committee

Please circulate our [FLYER](#) and let us know if you are interested in having a similar event in your congregation. We would be glad to help! To contact us or to join the Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group, please visit: <http://lists.uua.org/mailman/listinfo/EEP-CWG>

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!



Adam Foss on the Evolution of Prosecution

When: Sun April 23, 2:00 PM

Where - NEW LOCATION: Winchester Unitarian Society, 478 Main St, Winchester

Prosecutors have enormous power and discretion, and their decisions shape thousands of lives. Some are realizing that their traditional tools can't solve the real problems people face.



Adam Foss is a former Suffolk County Assistant District Attorney and the founder of Prosecutor Impact, which helps prosecutors learn a better way. His [TED Talk](#) on "A Prosecutor's Vision for a Better Justice System" has been viewed more than 1.5 million times.

Come hear him speak about how prosecution needs to change and how we can help.

This event is free and open to the public. An optional \$10-20 donation to support Prosecutor Impact will be invited but not required.

Sponsored by the Mass Incarceration Working Group of the First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington. Questions? Email end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info.

Documentary: Containment

Presented by Cape Downwinders

When: April 28, 7:00 PM

Where: WHAT (Wellfleet Harbor Actors Theater) 2357 Rte. 6

Although the film and program are free, [you need to make reservations for your seat](#)



Can we contain some of the deadliest, most long-lasting substances ever produced?

Left over from the Cold War are a hundred million gallons of radioactive sludge, covering vast radioactive lands. Governments around the world, desperate to protect future generations, have begun imagining society 10,000 years from now in order to create monuments that will speak across the time. Part observational essay filmed in weapons plants, Fukushima and deep underground — and part graphic novel — Containment weaves between an uneasy present and an imaginative, troubled far future, exploring the idea that over millennia, nothing stays put.

This event is being planned by Cape Downwinders in anticipation of the upcoming town votes on the non-binding resolution to ask Governor Baker to ensure that the spent nuclear fuel rods be put in dry cask storage for the safety of us all. Former State Senator Dan Wolf and Karen Vale of the Cape Cod Bay Watch will be speaking prior to the film.

The First Parish Brewster UU Presents: The Paul Hush Memorial Forum:

The Immigration Puzzle

When: Sat April 30, 2:00 PM

Where: The Brewster Meeting House, Rt 6A, 1969 Main Street, Brewster

[FLYER](#)

Speakers:

Representative Sarah Peake

Collin Mickle, Esq., Coordinator, Immigration Resource Center

Sarah Leidel, Esq., Justice Center of Southeast Mass

Emily Leung, Esq., Justice Center of Southeast Mass

The Muslim Community in the US

When: Mon May 1, 10 AM

Where: 309 Washington St (Rte. 16), Wellesley Hills

Presented by Wellesley-Weston Lifetime Learning as part of the American Issues class. Anyone interested in learning more about our Muslim neighbors is welcome to attend this program as our guest.

Presenter: Shaheen Akhtar of the Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland, is an interfaith liaison for the Muslim community. She has spent almost 20 years building bridges among people of all faiths.

For more information: 781-205-4204

Join us! May 1st 2017

May Day March - Mon May 1!

4pm gathering @ the
Everett City Hall
4pm @ gathering @ Maverick
Station East Boston
5pm - main event
@ Chelsea City Hall



**MAY 1
COALITION**
Chelsea | Everett | East Boston

Join together in solidarity with Workers, our friends in the immigrant community, and all those who call for justice in our communities

Where:

East Boston, Maverick Station 4:00 PM

Everett City Hall 4:00 PM,

Chelsea City Hall 5:30 PM

[Facebook Eventpage](#)

Push Back at Trump, Tillerson and Trotsky* - Join the Billionaire's Bash

When: Tue May 16, 10:30 AM – 12:30 PM [Flyer](#)

Where: Demonstration at The Ma Pension Fund (Prim) Office, 84 State Street, Boston

**M. Trotsky is the Exec. Dir. and CIO of the MA Pension Fund*

[Facebook Event Page](#)

Invited speakers/guests: divestment bill sponsor, Marjorie Decker; fossil fuel free investment expert Bob Massie; the Second Line Social Aid and Pleasure Society Brass Band

PRIM is the board that manages the Massachusetts pension fund. Just like Donald Trump they have billions of dollars and they love investing in fossil fuels! As billionaires, we think that's great so we're throwing a party to celebrate it: Billionaires Bash [#PRIM4Trump!](#)

We will be billionaires and fossil fuel executives dancing as the world burns!

Wear your best tuxedos, top hats, gowns and tiaras.

But seriously, the message will be that PRIM must dump its toxic assets.

The science is clear.

The moral arguments are compelling.

The financial future of thousands of pensioners is at stake.

The next generation is counting on us.

The PRIM (Pension Reserve Investment Management Board) has invested billions of state employees' and teachers' pension money in fossil fuel funds, including:

- almost \$2 billion in coal, gas and oil,
- \$200 million in Exxon Mobil, and
- over \$50 million in the companies building the Dakota Access Pipeline.

PRIM has steadfastly refused to consider divesting from these companies and it is time to shine a spotlight on their complicity with climate degradation and disruption. Experts agree that most fossil fuel reserves must remain underground if we are to have any chance of avoiding the most catastrophic results of climate change. Now more than ever - with the CEO of Exxon Mobil as Secretary of State and

climate deniers in high office - we must take a stand here in Massachusetts. JOIN US ON MAY 16! Stay tuned for more details.

Part of the May 2017 Global Divestment Mobilization

RESOURCES

FAMM Update

[Supreme Court Hands Victory to groups Criticizing Mandatory Minimum Sentencing Laws](#)

Training Resource: Resistance School

Videos / Classroom discussion created by Harvard Students on resistance

<https://www.resistanceschool.com/#resist>