

We believe our faith calls us to change the world



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## Celebrating Our Shared Commitment & Growth

Laura Wagner, Executive Director

### UU Advocacy Day was Amazing!

When we come together with a shared vision our energy is powerful! We had almost 150 people register for UU Advocacy Day this year! We are grateful to Rev. Fred Small for leading us in song, the inspiring words shared by our worship leader, Rev. John Gibbons, and for the centering wisdom shared by our keynote speaker, Rev. Paul Robeson Ford ([Bio's](#)). We celebrated our shared commitment to social justice and then took action together at the State House! Thank you to all who were able to participate!



### Important Transitions, the Future of UU Mass Action

UU Mass Action leadership announced that our founder, President and now Co-President, **Lynn Holbein**, will be stepping down from her position in June. We celebrated her visionary leadership and are deeply grateful for her years of commitment to Social Justice.



**Cindy Heiland** has been serving as our new Board President as of September 2016 and we are grateful for her leadership and commitment. Cindy and the members of our board are working hard to ensure that UU Mass Action remains a strong organization committed to social justice and supporting, organizing and mobilizing UUs in Massachusetts.



This past year UU Mass Action hired **Evan Seitz** as our Climate Justice organizer. Evan is now working closely with 12 congregations. It is clear that his leadership is a huge benefit to our shared justice work and our strategic vision includes a plan to hire more organizers in the near future. In addition, In order to better meet the needs of our

congregations, **Laura Wagner**, Executive Director, will transition to a full time position as of July 1<sup>st</sup>.



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We are so grateful to all of you for your support in growing our UU Social Justice action in Massachusetts! Here are some ways that you can help deepen our shared commitment:

1. Invite Laura Wagner to lead worship at your congregation - many congregations are planning next year's worship calendar now. Laura would love to spend time with your congregation and build our relationship together. In addition, the honorarium you offer supports UU Mass Action.
2. Become an [individual monthly donor](#) - giving a little each month is often more manageable than a big, one-time donation. Monthly donors allow us to have a predictable revenue stream and focus on programming.
3. Make an individual [one-time donation](#) - demonstrate your commitment to our shared work by supporting UU Mass Action today!
4. Include UU Mass Action in your congregation's plate share or special collection
5. Let's talk! Would you like to support our shared work but want to know more? Laura Wagner would be happy to meet with you!

Laura's contact info: 617-356-7737 [lwagner@uumassaction.org](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org)

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### **For those who participated in the Resistance to the West Roxbury Lateral Pipeline, read on!**

Boston College doctoral student and climate activist, Bobby Wengronowitz, is doing research on the resistance in West Roxbury. He's asking you to complete this survey (<http://goo.gl/rWVzFB>) about your involvement in the fight against the West Roxbury Lateral Pipeline. You will be entered to win cash and other prizes (raffling off approximately \$1,000). The survey is part of Bobby Wengronowitz's dissertation research aimed at helping us build a stronger, more effective climate movement. Thanks and please share the survey with others!

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## ACTION

### Walk for Water

**When:** Sat April 22, 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM

**Where:** North Plaza at Kendall Square, 300 Athenaeum, Cambridge

The MA Chapter of UUs for Justice in the Middle East encourages UUs to join the Walk for Water on Saturday 4/22 beginning at 10 AM. Some members will be at the start of the walk with the UJME banner so you can walk with us.



To contribute and be counted in our team effort, click here: [Join a Team](#) and then find the section, for "Register" and "Join a team". Then, just start typing UU... and the UJME team should appear. Select that and donate. If contributing gets difficult, come to the walk anyway and contribute in person.

Primary sponsor is 1for3, which sponsors water-related projects for Palestinian refugees.

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### **“The Corruption of Our Democracy” Congregational Study Action Issue Three Recommended Activities for Congregations**

**Group Purpose Statement:** *We seek to learn from and help each other to implement activities in our congregations that will address the UUA Congregational Study/Action Issue “The Corruption of Our Democracy”.*

**Status:** **We have identified three very useful, viable, no cost activities that congregations can implement to address this CSAI “The Corruption of Our Democracy”.**

1. First Parish in Concord modified and utilized the recommendations from the CSAI Guide for this topic which was to show the video *Legalize Democracy* followed by small group discussions to highlight the important learnings from the video and discuss potential actions. FP Concord reduced and combined some of the sections from the Guide to fit into a two-hour event. On January 31 they held the event and 75 people from 10 different churches attended. It was very successful and they are planning a follow-up on March 13. If you are interested in hosting a similar event at your congregation, please contact Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com). Fred will be happy to provide copies of the materials and answer your questions.
2. Ben Gubits and Jeff Clements from the [American Promise Association](#) are pleased to come to your congregation to speak about the work they are doing to “empower, inspire, and organize Americans to win the cause of our time: the 28th Amendment. This historic reform will rebalance our politics and government by putting the rights of individual citizens and the interests of the nation before the privileges of concentrated money, corporations, unions, political parties, and super PACs.” Jeff is the author of the book [Corporations Are Not People](#). To learn more or to schedule an event, contact Ben Gubits, [beng@americanpromise.net](mailto:beng@americanpromise.net), 508-612-0438.

- Lee Ketelsen from [We the People Massachusetts](#) is also very happy to come and help educate your congregation about our broken democracy and how it can be fixed. Her group has developed a customizable workshop that utilizes a PowerPoint presentation, videos and interactive discussion to review the history of how we got to this point and how we can move forward. Lee or another member of her group will do the presentation. You can contact her at [leednotc@gmail.com](mailto:leednotc@gmail.com), 781-894-1179.

If you would like additional information or assistance with any of these choices, please contact Fred Van Deusen at [fredvandeu@gmail.com](mailto:fredvandeu@gmail.com).

**Developed:** On Wednesday, February 15 we held the fourth meeting of our New England Region cross-congregational group to address the UUA Congregation Study / Action Issue of "The Corruption of Our Democracy."

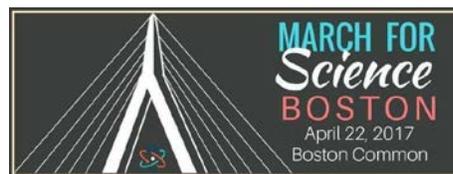
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## CLIMATE ACTION

### March for Science Boston

**When:** Sat April 22, 2:00 - 4:00 PM

**Where:** Boston Common



The [March for Science Boston](#) is a rally for science that celebrates discovery, understanding, and sharing of scientific knowledge as crucial to the success, health, and safety of our species and planet. They are a diverse and nonpartisan group united to celebrate Boston as a space for scientists and scientific research and to support scientific communication, science funding, evidence based policy-making, scientific literacy, and improving science from within.

### Schedule

1-2 pm: Parkman Bandstand kid-centric entertainment.

2-4 pm: Main rally with [speakers](#) and music at the main stage, [science activities for kids](#) at the Kids' Corner.

The March for Science Boston is a grass roots organized event, and relies on the support, enthusiasm, and generosity of all of us in our New England community.

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



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](http://350.org), Sierra Club, NAACP, Indigenous Environmental Network, SEIU and many more - lots more info at [www.peoplesclimate.org](http://www.peoplesclimate.org).

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

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### **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!

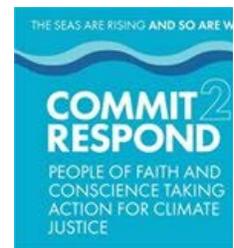
For the full schedule of events and organizing details, see the [Facebook Event Page](#)

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### **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>

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### **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>

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### **Springfield Sister March in Solidarity with DC March**

**When: Sat April 29, gather at 3:00 PM, March begins at 3:30 PM**

**Where: City Hall, 36 Court St, Springfield**

[Facebook Event Page](#)

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**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 fuel 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 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

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**Give Light: Spiritual Nurture for Climate Activism**

**An interactive workshop led by Rev. Fred Small**

**When: Sun May 7, 1 to 4 PM**

**Where: First Parish Church, 353 Great Road, Stow**

As we come to understand the gravity of climate disruption, it's easy to become disheartened. How do we convert informed anxiety into effective action in our congregation, community, state, nation, and world? In this interactive workshop, Rev. Fred Small will invite us into meditation, reflection, conversation, and song, strengthening our spirits and deepening our resolve in the struggle for climate justice.

We would like to know in advance who will attend. To register or for more information, write [rickmlent@gmail.com](mailto:rickmlent@gmail.com). The workshop is \$20/person.

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**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](mailto:lwagner@uumassaction.org)

[HD 2179, SD 984](#)      Raise Minimum Wage to \$15      Sen. Ken Donnelly      Rep. Dan Donahue

[HD 2573, SD 1768](#)      Paid Family & Medical Leave      Sen. Karen Spilka      Rep. Ken Gordon

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

**Legislator: Representative Paul Tucker**

When: Mon April 17, 5:30 PM

Where: 10 Colonial Rd, Salem

Sponsor: American Federal of Teachers

**Legislator: Representative Paul Schmid**

When: Tue April 18, 4:30 PM

Where: 1 Government Center, Room 237A, Fall River

Sponsor: Coalition for Social Justice

**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](mailto:liscopeland@aol.com)  
Lisa is coordinating the pre-discussion



**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*

**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**
- **Represent.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>

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## Update From The Economic Equity In Politics, Certified Working Group (EEP-CWG)

### From Greater Boston We the People

*We are pleased to host State Senator Jamie Eldridge, Lead Senate Sponsor of the We the People Act*

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

**When: Thur April 20 (always the 3rd Thursday of the month) 7 p.m.**

**Where: The Democracy Center, 45 Mt. Auburn St., Cambridge**

Take a mid-week break from April rallies and join us on April 20 to talk with Jamie about how we will win the We the People Act.

New people welcome at 6:30. The formal meeting will break at 8 and then there will be a chapter strategy discussion. All welcome.

(The DC is not wheelchair accessible, please contact [info@democracycenter.org](mailto: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](mailto: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>

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Please join us for the first film in the Environmental Justice Film Series presented by Melrose UU Church Green Sanctuary Committee

### **BIDDER 70**

**When: Sat April 22, 7:00 PM**

**Where: Melrose UU Church, 70 West Emerson St. Melrose**

Once in a while someone comes along that totally wows you; this is the story of Tim DeChristopher. In 2008, University of Utah economics student Tim DeChristopher committed an act which would redefine patriotism, igniting a spirit of civil disobedience in the name of climate justice. As bidder #70, he bid and saved 22,000 acres of pristine wilderness. No property was destroyed, no one was hurt, and valid concerns were raised over the entire oil and gas leasing process. **Bidder 70** centers on an extraordinary, ingenious and effective act of civil disobedience, demanding government and industry accountability. Tim's commitment to future generations, his evolution as a leader and his willingness to courageously accept the consequences of his action make his a story one that will inspire and motivate a new generation of activists. <http://www.bidder70film.com>

Save the date for the following films in our series:

Sat. May 20, 2017 7:00 pm **Play Again**

Sat. June 17, 2017 7:00 pm **Just Eat It**

**All movies are FREE and Open to the Public**

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### **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](mailto:end-mass-incarceration@firstparish.info).

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**Documentary: Containment**  
***Presented by Cape Downwinders***

**Two Showings:**

**When: Thur April 27, 7:00 PM**

**Where: Falmouth Public Library, 300 Main St, Hermann Foundation Room**

Presenters: Karen Vale -Cape Cod Bay Watch, Heather Lightener - Concerned Neighbors of Pilgrim, and William Maurer - Cape Downwinders

**When: Fri 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](#)**

Presenters: Dan Wolf - Former Senator, Karen Vale - Cape Cod Bay Watch, and Diane Turco - Cape Downwinders



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**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, Rte. 6A, 1969 Main Street, Brewster**

**[FLYER](#)**

Speakers:

Representative Sarah Peake

Collin Mickle, Esq., Coordinator, Immigration Resource Center

Sarah Leiden, Esq., Justice Center of Southeast Mass

Emily Leung, Esq., Justice Center of Southeast Mass

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**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

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## May Day March - Mon May 1!

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](#)

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Join us! May 1st 2017

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



## International Worker's and Immigrant's Day Rally

**When: Mon May 1<sup>st</sup>, 6 - 8 PM**

**Where: Framingham Center, corner of Union Ave and Concord St**

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## 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

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*

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## RESOURCES

Article: [Why Utilities Say Grid Security is the Most Pressing Sector Issue of 2017](#)

Author: Herman K Trabish, Published April 10, 2017 Utility Dive