

We believe our faith calls us to change the world

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TAKE ACTION



New Podcast!
[Safe Communities Act Update](#)
with Amy Grunder, Director of
Legislative Affairs,
Massachusetts Immigrant and
Refugee Advocacy Coalition
[MIRA](#)

3 Ways to find our podcasts:

1. Click the link to the left
2. Using an iPhone, open your podcast app and search for, "UU Justice Connections"
3. Go to www.uumassaction.org On the homepage, lower left, click "Podcasts" under the Faith in Action section

Safe Communities Act

On Thursday, Sept 28, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) targeted Sanctuary Cities with "[Operation Safe Cities](#)." Massachusetts was especially targeted because of the recent Supreme Judicial Decision, [Commonwealth v Lunn](#). "The brief in Commonwealth v. Lunn was filed on behalf of several defense attorney organizations arguing that the state's cooperation with ICE detainees not only violates constitutional protections against warrantless arrests, but also creates a substantial risk of discriminatory – and unlawful – enforcement." ([ACLU brief](#)). Governor Baker has since filed a bill in an attempt to fight this decision.

The immigrant families in our communities are under continued threat. Please join us on Oct 7th at the Sanctuary Hood event where we will hear from Ravi Ragbir, New Sanctuary NYC and local immigrant rights group leaders about effective strategies for resistance. A survey of current needs has been completed and working groups at this gathering will address how to increase capacity to meet these needs.

Find more info [HERE](#) REGISTER [HERE](#) Facebook Eventpage [HERE](#) Flyer [HERE](#)

Do you live near Salem? This community Needs Your Support!

The Safe Communities Coalition is advocating that supporters defend the pro-immigrant policies enacted by the Salem City Council earlier this year. Opponents of these policies collected 4,000 signatures to put the question to ballot referendum November 7th. It's critical to the Safe Communities Act that the Salem ordinance not be defeated and used to *prove* that state residents don't support these policies.

The Salem Yes on One Campaign is well organized and fanning out across Salem every weekend, phone banking during the week - and they need help - bodies - to build support for their welcoming ordinance ("Sanctuary for Peace") and get out the vote.

Salem is in the midst of a big ballot campaign in Salem to save our "Sanctuary for Peace" ordinance. The organizers are ready to go – They've got stickers, lawn signs, literature, and data - but what they need is help with canvassing and phone banking!

[Can you Sign Up for a SHIFT?](#)

You may also contact our field director, Jill Mulholland, at 603-966-0331 with questions.

Please contact Tanya Stepasiuk with any questions or resources. They would love to partner with you in whatever ways you can. 617-797-3053.

END MASS INCARCERATION

The senate released its comprehensive criminal justice bill on Thursday, Sept 28th. While UU Mass Action applauds the effort that went into the bill, there remain several areas of concern.

Mandatory Minimums

While there are some positive aspects, such as repealing non-weight and low weight mandatories, there remains a distinction about the type of drug. We have learned after years of Mandatory Minimum laws that they give District Attorneys exceptional power over people and that the laws target people of color and low income individuals. Mandatory minimums are wrong. They force people to take plea bargains when faced with long prison sentences and hijack our criminal justice system. [FACT Sheet](#), [ACLU](#)

Mandatory Minimum sentencing is wrong and must be repealed – not reformed, repealed.



Solitary Confinement Reform

While we applaud the effort to reform the current practice of solitary confinement, it does not go far enough. There are two types of solitary confinement: 1) Disciplinary Segregation and 2) Administrative Segregation.

The Department Disciplinary Unit, or DDU, holds people in solitary confinement for 23 hours per day up to 10 years – 10 years! The UN has declared anything longer than 2 weeks as torture. Anything short of ending this practice in Massachusetts is not acceptable. It is not an impossible goal. Several states have made significant progress in ending the practice of solitary confinement and they have seen a significant drop in violence in their general population, as a result. Maine is one of these states. To learn more about Maine solitary reform, view this Frontline video: [The Last Days of Solitary](#)

Again, we do applaud the effort that went into the 114 page bill. There is a lot of positive change that will come from it, if passed. UU Mass Action is in the process of analyzing the content with our coalition partners and there will be more information to come. This is the year for Comprehensive Criminal Justice Reform. We need all of us, working together, to get it right.

New Project – Voter Education Campaign on DA Influence and Power

UU Mass Action is partnering with the ACLU in a campaign that will focus on DAs (District Attorneys). the full launch of this effort will take place in early November. All 11 of our State’s DAs are up for re-election in 2018 – do you know who your DA is? Likely not – very few people do, and yet DAs have extraordinary power over how laws are applied and who is charged with which crimes.

To fund this new project, UU Mass Action will launch a Faithify Campaign later this week. Please watch for the announcement and support this important project! Thank you!

CLIMATE ACTION UPDATES

Speak Up Charlie: State House Actions for Climate Justice

Our First UU Action Date is Set: Tue Oct 17th!



Join [Mass Power Forward](#) in October and November for a series of creative actions at the State House to demand Governor Baker halt the construction of new fracked gas infrastructure. We're looking for 500 people (overall) to join us in this on-action.

The strategic actions will take place mostly during lunch hour on the weekdays, are family friendly, and will not involve risking arrest. If you can't make it to the state house on weekdays, we're looking for people to help with recruitment in congregations, social media, and traditional media work.

For more information, or to get involved, contact Evan Seitz, 413-687-8444, or eseitz@uumassaction.org
Because of the nature of these actions, this blurb is intentionally vague; I can fill you in on what's

going on if you contact me.

Mass Power Forward is a coalition of over 150 organizations that are committed to climate action. UU Mass Action is a member of this coalition

Create 100% Renewable Energy Communities

We need local action to increase the demand for clean, renewable energy. The Mass Power Forward team has made it easy for you to take action! Gather a few friends at your congregation and then check out this [toolkit](#) assembled by the Mass Climate Action Network, 350 Mass, Environment Mass and Clean Water Action. Learn more about this campaign [HERE](#). Scroll down the page to learn why this campaign is so important and check out the resources that are available to you. Need help getting started or have questions? Contact Laura Wagner lwagner@uumassaction.org 617-356-7737

Legislative Campaign

There are important legislative committee hearings happening this fall – see list below. Our four key areas of focus are:

- 1. Energy Justice and Equity**
- 2. Accelerating Renewable energy**
- 3. Ramping Down on Fossil Fuels**
- 4. Just Transition at Pilgrim Nuclear**

To see the complete and updated list of legislative priorities, click [HERE](#)

To access the legislation tracking sheet for all UU Mass Action legislative priorities, click [HERE](#)

Note: There are tabs at the bottom of the spreadsheet for each issues area

State House Hearing Information: This Week!

Tue Oct 3: [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#) (1:00 PM, Room A2)

[S.1846/H.2706 Solar Power & the Green Economy](#), Sen. Eldridge /Rep. Mark

[S.1831/H.3396 Solar Power in Environmental Justice and Urban Comm](#), Sen. Chang Diaz/Rep. Holmes

Can't make it to the state house but want to advocate for solar power in MA? No problem!

Click [HERE](#) to find everything you need to know, including talking point suggestions and links to the committee members

Tue Oct 10: [Joint Committee on Public Service](#), (1:00 PM, Room A2)

[H.3281 An Act Relative to Public Investment in Fossil Fuels, Rep. Decker](#)

11:00 AM Advocacy Outreach. Meet at the 4th floor coffee shop and look for the orange buttons. Submit written testimony to the Chairs of the Joint Committee on Public Service, in support of the pension fund divestment bill (which would divest the fund from fossil fuels, starting with coal) before the fall hearing on the bill. It's easy. Just [copy, paste and customize this draft testimony](#). It would be great if you could add something personal about why you are concerned about climate change. Then ask your friends to do the same. And if you haven't signed the petition to divest the pension fund from fossil fuels, you can sign it [here](#).

Tue Oct 17: [Joint Committee on Telecommunication, Utilities and Energy](#) (time & location TBD)

[S.1847/H.3400 Clarifying Authority & Responsibilities of DPU](#), Sen. Eldridge/ Rep. Kulik

[S.1855/H.2698 Protect Ratepayers from Pipeline Expansion Costs](#), Sen. Jehlen/Rep. Gordon

[S.1845/H.2683 Protect Consumers from Paying for Gas Leaks](#), Sen. Eldridge/Rep. Barber

Raise the Minimum Wage and Paid Family and Medical Leave - Update



UUs are well on our way to gathering 1,000 Signatures!



Will you collect signatures at coffee hour? It's easy! Laura Wagner will train you and get you the petitions you'll need. UUs have pledged to collect 1,000 signatures – together, we can beat this goal! Sign up now! Contact Laura at: lwagner@uumassaction.org or call 617-356-7737 [Watch the training video](#)

Thank you to the Congregations collecting signatures so far – let's keep this list growing!

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*

UU Mass Action Fundraiser and 4th Annual Story Slam!

A Story Slam is like the NPR show, “The Moth”

When: Sat Nov 4, 7:00 – 9:00 PM

Where: First Church Unitarian, Littleton 19 Foster St., Littleton



We'll be bringing you a stellar line up of UU Ministers again this year! More details will be available soon. Save the date! You don't want to miss this!

Indigenous Peoples' Day Hearing: Brookline Advisory Committee

When: Tue Oct 3, 6:30 – 8:30 PM

Where: Brookline Town Hall, 333 Washington St, Brookline

Please come to the Brookline Advisory Committee hearing on the Indigenous Peoples Day warrant article. We need you there! If you plan to speak in support, please prepare your remarks in advance and plan to speak for 3 minutes or less.

There are going to be multiple hearings on this resolution before we get to the Town Meeting in mid-November, and we need people to show up at these hearings to let the various town committees know that they support this change!

Lead Sponsor: [United American Indians of New England UAINE](#) [Facebook Event Page](#)

350Mass Metrowest Node October Meeting

When: Thurs Oct 5, 7:00 PM

Where: Peace Lutheran Church, 105 Concord Road/Route 126, Wayland

Please join the Metrowest node of 350Mass for their monthly meeting. We will connect with folks from all over the Metrowest area, update group members on statewide activities, and engage in issue-specific working groups. This will include our ongoing effort to assess sustainability efforts in several nearby towns. There will also be a chance for participants to share news and announcements from their organizations and municipalities.

For more information about climate change and the Metrowest node, visit:

<https://www.facebook.com/350MAMetrowestNode>

"Nonviolent Civil Disobedience (NVCD) and the Age of Antifa"

Presented by Rev. Karlene Griffiths Sekou from BLM Boston and others

When: Fri Oct 6, 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM (Pot Luck Dinner, 6:00 – 7:00 PM)

Where: First Parish in Brookline, 382 Walnut Street, Brookline, MA [Register](#)

Please join us in a critical conversation regarding recent visibility of NVCD along with Antifa protests. From Charlottesville to Boston, peaceful protest strategies included alignment with the historical anti-fascism group known as Antifa. We will discuss the following questions:

- What is the legacy of Antifa?
- What role does it play in the BLM Movement and beyond?
- What role does it play in combating white supremacy?
- How do we understand the spectrum of strategic resistance?
- Join others in this courageous and critical conversation
- Help to debunk myths, deepen your own, and share in respectful conversation about this important topic.

This is a free event, but just so we can anticipate the number of people, please [Register!](#)

Sinking Columbus: Boston Marches for Indigenous Peoples' Day!

When: Sat Oct 7, 1:00 – 4:00 PM

Where: Meet at Park St. Station, Boston

For many decades, Native people have been calling for an end to the public celebration of Christopher Columbus on the 2nd Monday in October. In its place, we have called for the celebration of Indigenous Peoples' Day to celebrate our resistance and significance, and to recognize the genocide of and theft from millions of Indigenous Peoples throughout the Americas by Columbus.

Initial steps have been underway for 2 years to recognize Indigenous Peoples' Day in place of Columbus Day. On the 90th year of its celebration, let's make Boston one of the increasing number of cities to recognize the true history of this day, and honor Indigenous Peoples.

LOGISTICS:

We will rally at the Park Street Station at 1pm, and then march to the Christopher Columbus Statue!

For more information and to get involved, visit: www.IndigenousPeoplesDayMA.org

#SinkingColumbus #IPDBoston [Facebook Event Page](#)

Build Relationship with Our Neighbors at the Islamic Center of Boston, Wayland

The Interfaith Book Club Presents: Getting to the Heart of Interfaith

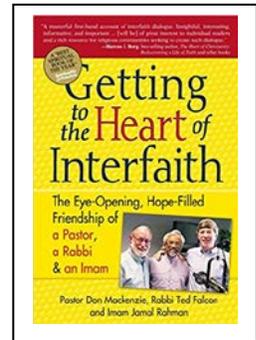
When: Sun Oct 15, 3:00 – 5:00 PM

Where: ICB Wayland, 126 Boston Post Rd, Wayland

The story of a pastor, a rabbi and an imam and the friendship that grew out of their search for mutual understanding.

Join the conversation – it’s ok if you don’t read the book

RSVP here: bookclub@icbwayland.org



Mendelsohn Lecture Series Presents: Passage at St. Augustine

When: Sun Oct 15, 4:00 PM

Where: UU Urban Ministry, 10 Putnam St, John Eliot Square, Roxbury

[FLYER](#)

The story of the 1964 Black Lives Matter Movement that transformed America.

Documentary and panel discussion featuring film maker Clennon L. King and community activist Mimi Jones



This compelling documentary tells the story of the violent and bloody civil rights campaign in deeply segregated St. Augustine, Florida that led to the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Following the film, Clennon L. King and Mimi Jones will lead a guided discussion that interrogates the questions: what is our civic engagement role in moving justice forward? While it can feel like we’re slipping backwards on race issues, are there ways society is moving forward in a positive way? How do we maintain hope that things can change for the better?

More about the film can be found here: www.passageatstaugustine.com

Free! This event has been made possible by through generous support from: Mass Humanities and The Social Responsibility Council or First Parish Church on Bedford

Mobilizing Congregations for Justice

When: Sun Oct 15, 1:00 – 3:00 pm

Where: First Universalist Society (Unitarian Universalist), 262 Chestnut Street, Franklin

Suggested donation: \$20 per person, Pre-registration not required

Congregations can be a powerful force when mobilized for justice work. This training will teach, model, and practice 3 central tools for community organizing that can be used to build a more loving and

powerful justice-centered community.

In many congregations, activists struggle to get to a place where the justice work is owned by the whole congregation, rather than a select few. Our trainer, Matt Meyer, offers specific tools of community organizing, translated for the context of a congregational setting. We'll vision what it looks like when the worship, music, board of directors, RE program, and finance committee are brought into a shared vision and how the basic tools of community organizing can help get us there.

Matt Meyer is a founding organizer for the Greater Boston Chamber of Cooperatives. He's also founder two housing cooperatives and the Boston Cooperative Investment Club and has lent a hand on environmental, labor, and legislative campaigns.

For more information: Contact Vicki Coates, vickicoates@comcast.net

Sustainable House of Worship (SHOW) Workshop

When: Sun Oct 15, 1:30 to 5:30 PM [FLYER](#)

Where: First Church of Christ Longmeadow, 163 Longmeadow Street, Longmeadow, MA

Leading by example can be a powerful part of our moral responsibility to care for creation. Reducing the carbon footprints at our houses of worship will lower energy bills and free up funds needed for other important purposes. Participants will learn about solar power; how to upgrade electrical, heating & AC equipment; the building envelope; and the need to change behaviors.

Register in advance at <http://conta.cc/2rsBUAh>. Fee is \$20 payable online or at the door
1:30 -2:00 PM: Refreshments, registration and networking; 2-5 PM: Workshop presentations
For more information contact Vince Maraventano at vince@MIPandL.org or [617-244-0755](tel:617-244-0755).
All faiths welcome! Two participants from each congregation are encouraged to attend.

White Privilege Symposium on Cape Cod

When: Fri Oct 20 and Sat Oct 21

Where: Nauset Regional High School

Register NOW: www.regonline.com/wps-cc

Cost: Adults \$100 College Students \$75 High School Students \$50

Discount for people who work at the conference.



Leaders and Friends on Cape Cod, in partnership with The Privilege Institute, we are pleased to announce the White Privilege Symposium on Cape Cod. This landmark symposium will take place at Nauset Regional High School on Friday, October 20 and Saturday, October 21, 2017.

In keeping with the annual, national White Privilege Conference (WPC), the White Privilege Symposium examines the challenging concepts of diversity, power, privilege, leadership and oppression, focusing on issues of systemic inequity through empowering courageous, educational and action-oriented programming. All workshops, keynotes and institutes will provide practical tips, tools and strategies for combating systemic inequities. We are excited about the theme of White Privilege Symposium on Cape Cod "Understanding & Challenging Privilege: One Ally at a Time."

#Accountability4Action

The Symposium is a unique opportunity to bring together high school and college students, teachers, university faculty and higher education professionals, non-profit staff, community leaders and activists, social workers and counselors, healthcare workers, members of the spiritual community and corporate arena, among many others.

Confirmed speakers include, but are not limited to Jackie Battalora, Chuck Collins, Debby Irving, Peggy McIntosh, Eddie Moore, Jr., Jasiri X & many others.

For Moore information about being a sponsor please mail bjburgo19@gmail.com or emj@theprivilegeinstitute.com

Citizens Uniting to Restore the Republic

Presented by UU Mass Action Economic Equity in Politics Certified Working Group

When: Fri October 27, 7-9 PM

Where: Unitarian Church of Marlborough Hudson, 80 Main Street, Hudson

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

Civics Matters: promoting forums for information that matters

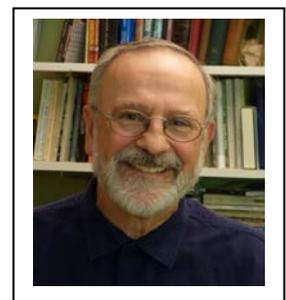
Presenters from:

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

Co-Sponsors: Concerned & Informed Voter Collaborative, Hudson Democratic Town Committee, Hudson Republican Town Committee, Sawyer Hill Resistance [FLYER](#)

Speaking by Heart: The Art of Speaking Without a Manuscript

When: Nov 5 – 7, 2017



Where: The Rowe Center, Rowe MA

Find a full description and Register [HERE](#)

Workshop Leader: Rev Stephen Shick

Are you a pastor, an activist, or someone yearning to communicate with greater effectiveness socially or in your business? Whether you're a seasoned speaker or you're about to face your first audience, or even if you're preparing to speak at a family gathering, do you have a feeling that you could be a better speaker — if only you knew how?

UU Mass Action would love to visit your congregation this year!

Let's work together on strengthening UU organizing in Massachusetts. Laura Wagner, Executive Director or Evan Seitz, Climate Justice Organizer, will be happy to lead worship service and meet with you after the service to discuss how we can better work together.

Laura's Sermon title: Justice Stories. At the center of any powerful movement, you'll find amazing individuals who are creating justice. What can we learn from each other and how will we create justice during these difficult times.

