



Newsletter Date: 9/25/17

We believe our faith calls us to change the world

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Get Involved with Climate Action!

Here's What's Happening Right Now:



Speak Up Charlie: State House Actions for Climate Justice

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 to join us in this action.

New Podcast!
[Joel Wool, Energy Advocate at Clean Water Action and Mass Power Forward Coordinator](#)

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 issue's area

State House Hearing Information:

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

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!



Sept 19 Press Con at the State House

Increasing the minimum wage to \$15 by 2022 would raise the wages of roughly one million workers, close to a third of the state's workforce. More than 90% of workers who would be affected are over 20 years old, and nearly 60% are women. Workers who are paid low wages include highly skilled professions, like nursing assistants, childcare providers, teacher aides, and paramedics

Emergencies arise for all of us at some point, but 87% of workers in New England lack access to paid leave. In Massachusetts, 1.2 million workers risk losing their jobs if they take time off work to take care of a family medical emergency or to care for a new child.

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!

First Parish UU of Arlington

First Parish in Bedford

First Church in Belmont

All Souls Church, Braintree

First Parish Unitarian, Bridgewater

Hopedale Unitarian Parish

First Parish Church, Northboro

The Community Church or North Orange & Tully

United First Parish Church in Quincy

First Parish of Watertown

First Parish Church United of Westford

Theodore Parker Church, West Roxbury

UU Church of Worcester, Holden St.

Winchester Unitarian Society

TAKE ACTION FOR IMMIGRANT AND MUSLIM RIGHTS

Join this gathering where we will hear from immigrant rights leaders and learn how we can strengthen our resistance together!

Sanctuary Hood: Creating Sanctuary Everywhere

Featuring: Ravi Ragbir. Learn more about Ravi's story here: [Democracy Now!](#) [PRI Interview](#)

When: Saturday Oct 7, 9:30 AM - 2:00 PM

Where: 138 Tremont St, Boston (Cathedral of St. Paul)



[Web announcement](#) [Facebook Page](#) [Flyer](#)

- Beyond Accompaniment - meeting the needs of the immigrant communities
- Beyond Know Your Rights - keeping our communities safe
- Sanctuary Hood - creating sustainable, proactive sanctuary communities

Community activists, father, husband - Ravi Ragbir came to the US from Trinidad in 1991. He became a lawful permanent resident in 1994 but an immigration judge issued a final deportation order in 2017. He is scheduled for removal in January 2018.

Through his own struggle, Ravi became an activist working to support others in immigrant communities who also face being torn from their families and exile from the US. Ravi founded the New Sanctuary Movement in NYC and is a dedicated leader and organizer fighting for human rights.

The Supreme Court will hear the “Muslim ban” case related to President Trump’s Executive Order 13,780 on October 10th. The Executive Order blocked citizens from 6 primarily Muslim nations (Iran, Libya, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, and Yemen) from entering the US, and has put sharp limits on the US refugee program, among other draconian provisions. Both the UUA and UUSC have signed onto a faith community amicus brief which will be part of the legal documents discussed in those proceedings.

Click [HERE](#) to find the resource provided by the UU Love Resists Campaign which processes info on how you can take action to support Muslim Rights

LOVE
RESISTS

[Love Resists](#)

TAKE ACTION FOR ENDING MASS INCARCERATION

What's Happening with Criminal Justice Reform?

The Joint Committee on Judiciary is working to develop an Omnibus Bill that will move forward a key bill that addresses comprehensive reform. There is concern that what's included in the Senate and House version of the omnibus bill will not fully address the issues that the current, individual bills address. The various coalitions, of which UU Mass Action is part, are watching this process very closely and should have more specific information in the coming weeks.

Joint Committee on the Judiciary House Chair, Representative Claire Cronin, is currently speaking with House members to learn more about the priorities identified by their constituents.

Will you make a call to your state representative and let them know you want bold criminal justice reform to pass this session? Find your representative [HERE](#)

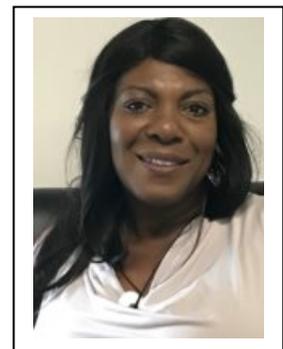
Find an overview of what's happening and a short call script [HERE](#). You don't need to be knowledgeable on specific bills - at this point in the process the End Mass Incarceration Together Team, along with our Criminal Justice Coalition members, are just trying to elevate criminal justice reform as a priority. House Judiciary Committee Chair Claire Cronin needs to hear this message and she, in turn, will get this message to House Speaker DeLeo.

Please make this one important call today! Thank you!

MA Against Solitary Confinement

The MA Against Solitary Confinement Coalition (MASC) is working to end the practice of locking people into solitary confinement for up to 10 years. This occurs in the DDU (Department Disciplinary Units) in MA. People imprisoned in this manner are often released directly to the street. We are one of just a few states that treat people in this manner and it needs to end.

To strengthen the MASC coalition's work, member organizations have collectively hired a MASC coordinator. Prisoner Legal Services, Black and Pink, GLAD and UU Mass Action are pleased to announce that we have hired **Cassandra Bensahih**. You can read Cassandra's bio on our UU Mass Action Staff page, [HERE](#).



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!

Anti-Racism Workshop Series - Facilitated by The Antiracism Collaborative

When: Oct 1st, Oct 15th and Oct 22nd from 12:00pm – 2:30pm

(Includes a light lunch offered at 11:30am)

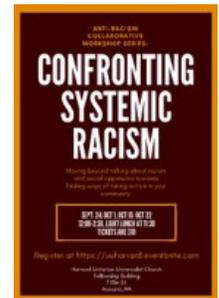
Where: 7 Elm Street, Harvard, MA The Fellowship Building of the Harvard UU Church

Cost: \$10 per person

Registration:

Step 1 – Receive your ticket from [Eventbrite](#)

Step 2 – Complete your registration form – [Registration form](#)



This course will focus on bridging a deep understanding of personal and structural racism into commitments and a solid plan to move forward! If you're looking to understand your experiential role in the dynamics of systemic racism or if you are interested in finding the next step in framing your role in social justice movements. This course is geared to move beyond talking about racism and social oppression and set on finding ways to take action, whether in your own personal sphere and in your community.

"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!](#)

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

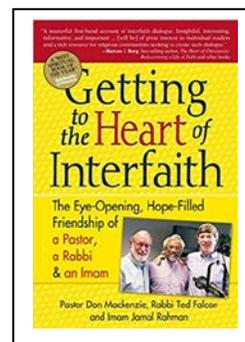
The Interfaith Book Club Presents: Getting to the Heart of Interfaith

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. 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

White Privilege Symposium on Cape Cod

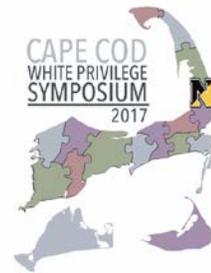
When: Fri Oct 20 and Sat Oct 21

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

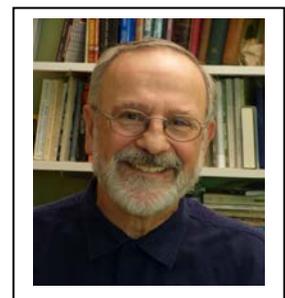
Speaking By Heart: The Art of Speaking Without a Manuscript

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 a 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.



Give: [Hurricane Relief Fund](#)

