

Overview of UUCMC Social Justice Committee/Coalition

Our congregation is active in many areas of social justice work and thus the UUCMC Social Justice Committee is more like a coalition than a committee. Many projects are local UUCMC projects (Blue table), and others are organized through UU FaithAction NJ (Green table). Meetings are opportunities for us to share updates on the work we are doing, collaborate with others and ask for help. We meet by Zoom at 7pm on the second Monday of each month. Please join us to hear about what we are doing AND bring your ideas! The zoom link can be found on UUCMC calendar at <https://www.uucmc.org/calendar/>. To receive agendas and meeting reminders, please contact the SJ Committee Co-chairs, Ann Sherwood annsherwood5@gmail.com or Vanessa Merhi vanessamerhi@gmail.com

UUCMC SOCIAL JUSTICE COALITION					
Co-chairs: Vanessa Merhi, Ann Sherwood					
Activities & Issue Champions					
Voices of Black Experience <i>Sarah Klepner</i> Sarah.Klepner@gmail.com Ann Sherwood Annsherwood5@gmail.com E	Share the Plate <i>Irene Gibson</i> irene.gibson@gmail.com S	Climate Action <i>Pat and Steve Miller</i> PatMiller@comcast.net SteveMiller@comcast.net E, C	UU the Vote/ Democracy <i>Rich Held</i> richheld@gmail.com <i>Tony Giordano</i> tonygio298@gmail.com E, C	Rainbow Coalition <i>Judy Stevens</i> judybolton@comcast.net E, C	
Monmouth Together Coalition <i>Ann Sherwood</i> Annsherwood5@gmail.com <i>Vanessa Merhi</i> vanessamerhi@gmail.com <i>Tony Giordano</i> tonygio298@gmail.com C	Bayshore Lunch Program <i>Lois Blake</i> lblake50@gmail.com <i>Barbara Vallin</i> S	Mitten Tree <i>Patricia Brennan</i> pbdancer77@gmail.com com	KIVA <i>Nancy Ehrlich</i> nehrlich2@gmail.com S	Crop Walk <i>Vanessa Merhi</i> vanessamerhi@gmail.com S, E	
	Film Series <i>Dan Ciaglia</i> danciaglia@gmail.com <i>Sarah Klepner</i> sarah.klepner@gmail.com E	Family Promise <i>Needs Champion</i> S	*MCWRET <i>Joe Donahue</i> tddack@yahoo.com S, E, C	Casa Freehold <i>Needs Champion</i> S, C	
UU Faith Action NJ Task Forces Congregational Liaison Judy Stevens					
Criminal Justice <i>Needs Champion</i> S, E, C	Environmental Justice <i>Judy Stevens</i> judybolton@comcast.net E, C	Gun Violence Prevention <i>Moriah Nester</i> mester@sas.rutgers.edu <i>Ann Sherwood</i> AnnSherwood5@gmail.com E, C	Immigration <i>Rich Held</i> richheld@gmail.com E, C	Reparations <i>Teri Bates</i> cyberspaz9@gmail.com <i>Sarah Klepner</i> Sarah.Klepner@gmail.com S	Reproductive Justice <i>Nicole Schultz</i> nic0880@gmail.com S, E, C
Primary Function(s) S = Service/Support for Those in Need E = Education about the Issues; C = Change/Advocacy re: Public Policy * Monmouth Center for World Religions & Ethical Thought (Adjunct)					

Group, Champion	Meeting/volunteer Info	Brief description of work
UUCMC Local Efforts		
DEMOCRACY		
UU the Vote Tony Giordano tonygio298@gmail.com ; Rich Held richheld@gmail.com	Fourth Wednesday, 7PM (usually by zoom); contact Tony to be added to the email list.	Provide a forum for discussing current events and news related to voting rights, laws and procedures in NJ and the nation. Share information on events and actions for education, voting information and voter registration, and to support voting rights. Take on team projects such as letter-writing to voters to increase turn-out. Present menus of possible actions for members to choose from individually. We sometimes get into issues beyond voting, such as gerrymandering or campaign finance. Open to anyone.
ECONOMY		
Kiva Nancy Ehrlich nehrlich2@gmail.com	Periodically attends SJC mtg to update on latest projects.	Re-loan initial investment of \$200 to entrepreneurs throughout the world.
ENVIRONMENT		
Climate Action Team Pat and Steve Miller PatMiller@comcast.net ; SteveMiller@comcast.net	First Monday of the month. Email Pat or Steve to receive Zoom links. Several zoom events throughout the month. Details are in the Eblast.	As we can meet in person, there are several initiatives to join. Plans for a display outside the Earth room about our recently completed solar and heat pump installation. The Climate Action Team plans an Earth Day service each year in April.
FOOD AND HOUSING		
Bayshore Lunch Program Lois Blake, Irene Gibson, and Barbara Vallin, lblake50@gmail.com	Second Monday of every month from 9:15 to ~ 12:45.	Prepare food for approximately 20 people. Volunteers needed, including substitutes. Great place to work!
CROP Walk Vanessa Merhi vanessamerhi@gmail.com	Committee is active leading up to Crop Walk (third Sunday in October).	UUCMC is one of the top teams in this annual five-mile walk and fundraiser. Join our team to raise money and collect food for those in need here and abroad.
Family Promise Now part of Lunch Break Needs Champion		
Mitten Tree Patricia Brennan pbdancer77@gmail.com	To be announced in December.	Small tree is decorated with mittens describing gift cards or specific items requested by groups such as Family Promise for their clients. Help is needed with outreach, publicity, gift delivery to charity.

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GENDER EQUITY		
Rainbow Coalition Judy Stevens judybolton@comcast.net	Limited by Covid, previously monthly.	Provides education regarding gender/sexual orientation concerns. Participates in the Asbury Pride Day and Transgender Day of Remembrance.
IMMIGRATION		
Casa Freehold Needs Champion		
AND MORE		
Deep in Color: Voices of Black Experience/ SJ Film Series Sarah Klepner sarah.klepner@gmail.com Ann Sherwood Annsherwood5@gmail.com	One Sunday a month, depending on topic organizer availability. Link to register for 7PM zoom in Eblast. You can sign-up with Sarah to receive reminder emails.	Discussions about racial justice issues with participants from inside and outside our walls. Facilitated by Dr Carol Penn and Rev Kerwin Webb.
Share the Plate Irene Gibson irene.gibson@gmail.com	No meetings. Some recipients are selected by the congregation at the June Congregational meeting and others by the SJC.	Call for suggested recipients goes out to all in the late spring. Organizations are researched and nonprofit status is verified. Eblast notices and ballots are prepared. After votes are tabulated, each organization is assigned a month from September through June (not July and August). Chair provides a short blurb on the organization for the eblast/service and keeps track of how much is collected and donated through this program.
Monmouth Together Coalition Ann Sherwood Annsherwood5@gmail.com Tony Giordano tonygio298@gmail.com	TBD; this is a developing group.	Collaboration of many faith communities and nonprofits to address issues on the community and county level. Volunteers will be needed to research problems and solutions, organize, and lobby.
Monmouth Center for World Religions and Ethical Thought (MCWRET) Joe Donahue jtdback@yahoo.com	Contact Joe for information about how to become involved and what help is needed.	MCWRET meets in the UUCMC East Room when in-person meetings are possible. Interfaith Dialogue is the focus. Programs include the Annual Shanti Lecture (occurs in September), United We Sing (a festival of food and music held on the Sunday before Thanksgiving), and MOSAIC, which brings together youth from many faith communities for education and service. These and other opportunities to share common values.

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UU FAITH ACTION NJ Judy Stevens, Congregational Liaison judybolton@comcast.net	Monthly Zoom Calls.	State-level legislative lobbying and Action Alerts. See https://www.uufaithaction.org/
Criminal Justice Needs Champion	Third Monday of the month, 7:00 to 8:00PM.	Attend monthly meetings, keep SJC apprised of needed actions Focus for 2020-2021: Juvenile Justice. <i>A bill to transform the juvenile justice system and a bill to fund pilot projects for community-based restorative justice.</i> Re-entry Services. <i>Expansion of residential services and of re-entry services to be available to all those being released at the end of their sentence or on parole.</i> Dismantling racism. <i>A Continuing Resolution to amend the state's constitution, a bill to study reparations in NJ, and a bill to restrict the use of deadly force.</i>
Environmental Justice Judy Stevens judybolton@comcast.net	First Thursday of the month, 12:00 to 1:30PM.	Attend monthly meetings, keep SJC apprised of needed actions Focus for 2021: Reduce fossil fuel emissions, especially in EJ neighborhoods, with emphasis on transportation. <i>Follow the lead of our Environmental Justice partners including the NJ Environmental Justice Alliance, the Ironbound Community Corporation, and Clean Water Action. This will have direct impact on health of residents in EJ neighborhoods.</i> Reduce lead in households, both in drinking water and lead paint. <i>Following the lead of our EJ partners (see #1 above), help promote outreach to residents about avoiding or reducing lead in drinking water and lead paint in their households.</i> Promote the Green Amendment. <i>Especially through UU Congregations, build understanding and support for the NJ pending legislative resolutions (SCR30/ACR80), which promote the right to clean air, clean water, and a healthy environment. Follow the lead of "Green Amendments for the Generations." The Green Amendment is supported by our EJ partners.</i>
Immigration Justice Rich Held, TF Cochair richheld@gmail.com	Second Monday of the month, 8:00 to 9:00PM.	Attend monthly meetings, keep SJC apprised of needed actions <i>Immigration Justice Task Force video from 2021 Justice Gala</i> https://www.uufaithaction.org/immigration-reform/
Reparations Teri Bates cyberspaz9@gmail.com Sarah Klepner Sarah.klepner@gmail.com	Second Tuesday of the month, 6:00 to 7:30PM.	Attend monthly meetings, keep SJC apprised of needed actions. Newly formed group. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> First action is <i>Common Read</i>: "The Social Life of DNA: Race, Reparations and Reconciliation after the Genome" by Alondra Nelson. Feb 23, March 9, March 23, April 6, April 27, and May 11, 7:00 - 8:30 pm. Join one session or all.

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Reproductive Justice Nicole Schultz nic0880@gmail.com	Fourth Monday of the month, 7:00 to 8:00PM.	Attend monthly meetings, keep SJC apprised of needed actions. Limited info regarding current projects. For more information contact: reprojustice@uufaiethaction.org .
Gun Violence Prevention Moriah Nestor (on leave) Ann Sherwood AnnSherwood5@gmail.com	Third Wednesday of the month, 1:00 to 2:00PM.	Attend monthly meetings, keep SJC apprised of needed actions. Limited info on current projects. For more information contact: gvpreservation@uufaiethaction.org .