



UUJO May 2020 News

UUJO Needs Your Support

#GivingTuesdayNow will occur on Tuesday, May 5th as a global day of giving and unity! UUJO needs your support to continue to fight for justice in Ohio and amplify our liberal values. Please learn more and donate at: https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/support-uujo?clear_id=true&source=direct_link



Sponsor a Community Conversation

If you would to have your congregation or group sponsor an online Community Conversation this Spring, please contact Rev Joan Van Becelaere at info@uujo.org. Or call 303-6741-5896



Community Conversation: Fight for Democracy

UUJO, the UU Congregation of Cleveland, UU The Vote, and Ohio Votes invite you to an online Community Conversation focused on issues that keep us up at night, the fight for democracy and election protection.

Saturday May 9

1:00 pm to 2:45 pm (with discussion)

Online

In this 90-minute Conversation (allowing a bit more time for discussion), we will discuss the issues that people say, 'keep them up at night', looking particularly at those issues that are impacted by our elections. We will show the powerful documentary, "Suppressed: The Fight to Vote", produced by Brave New Films and the Stacey Abrams voter projected.

Register at: https://actionnetwork.org/events/fight-for-democracy?clear_id=true&source=direct_link

The documentary paints an undeniable picture of voter suppression in the 2018 Georgia midterm election. The issues faced include polling place closures, voter purges, missing absentee ballots, extreme wait times and a host of voter ID issues – all of which disproportionately prevented many students and people of color from casting their ballots. This documentary speaks to the threat posed to our 2020 elections.

Register at: https://actionnetwork.org/events/fight-for-democracy?clear_id=true&source=direct_link

After viewing together, we will discuss how we can all prepare to meet these same threats here in Ohio in the 2020 elections. We will also offer folk the opportunity to become part of a Voter Advocacy Team and help others register online (or in person), and then vote, including using absentee ballots.

Facilitators:

Rev Dr Susan Smith, Director of Crazy Faith ministries, Columbus, and Communications Coordinator of the Samuel DeWitt Proctor Conference.

Rev Joan Van Becelaere; Executive Director, Unitarian Universalist Justice Ohio

Register at: https://actionnetwork.org/events/fight-for-democracy?clear_id=true&source=direct_link

Let us know at info@uujo.org if you have any questions.



Webinar: Ohio Legislative Update

Wednesday, May 27

7:00 - 8:15 pm

Join Rev. Joan VanBecelaere, Executive Director of UUJO, Tadd Pinkston of Pinkston Law and other guests to discuss what is happening this month in the Ohio Statehouse. We discuss updates on key legislation, including the fight against COVID-19, voting rights, criminal justice reform, and more. The discussions can be very lively.

Please register for UUJO webinars to receive notice of new webinars, reminders and easy-click Zoom online connection information.

You can register [HERE](#)

or at: https://actionnetwork.org/events/uujo-webinars?clear_id=true&source=direct_link

Or use Zoom Meeting Information: <https://zoom.us/j/3909831611>

Meeting ID: 390 983 1611

Or Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 390 983 1611.

Support Ohio Immigrant Families

The Cbus Immigrant Transit Assistance group (the bus greeters) and Simakovsky Law and UUJO have been working together on ways we can respond to the virus crisis in Central Ohio, knowing that certain marginalized populations are being hit much harder than others.

We are most concerned about the immigrant families, knowing that many of them work in hospitality and food service. And because of various status issues, they won't have any access to the public benefits or basic support networks that State of Ohio and the U.S. Congress have created.

The need is great and growing. **Our first service day served 75 families. Our next service day fed 500 families (picture above). We anticipate 1000 at our next service day.**

To meet this need, Simakovsky Law offices in downtown Columbus will be collecting non-perishable food donations and UUJO will be facilitating online financial donations aimed at serving the undocumented population in Central Ohio.

Physical donations can be dropped off Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm at Simakovsky Law [460 E Main St Columbus, Ohio 43215](https://www.simakovskylaw.com/). There will be a donation box right outside of our door (inside the building).

Requested supplies include:

- beans
- rice
- canned items
- corn tortillas or masa harina
- diapers
- baby formula
- potatoes
- pasta
- bread
- Maria cookies
- instant coffee
- paper products, like toilet paper



Monetary donations will be used to purchase wholesale supplies on the list and other necessary items as needs rise.

Monetary donations can be made [HERE](#) or at: https://actionnetwork.org/fundraising/cbus-immigrant?clear_id=true&source=email-april-uujo-news-and-events

Or send a check to:

UUJO, PO Box 980, Worthington, OH 43085--- and note "Immigrant" in the memo line.

Simakovsky Law is following all of the CDC guidelines as well as directives from the Columbus Health Department. They will remain open as long as it is safe and legal to do so.

Please consider duplicating this program in your city! If you have any questions, please call Simakovsky Law at (614) 695-4605 or email Lauren at lauren@simakovskylaw.com. Or contact Rev Joan Van Becelaere with UUJO at info@uujo.org.



Join UU the Vote on May 12th for ["How We Thrive"](#) an online revival of hope, song, and determination with Rev. Susan Frederick Gray

What does it mean to practice our principles during a pandemic? What are we doing to guarantee free and fair elections in states targeted by voter suppression?

How is UU the Vote rising to the challenges of COVID-19, while creating a movement towards UU values in the 2020 elections?

Join us LIVE for a special update from UU the Vote. This event will feature musicians from across the country, a message from UUA President Rev. Susan Frederick-Gray, and opportunities for you to get involved and make meaningful impacts in 2020.

[RSVP to How We Thrive on May 12th and recruit three people to attend with you.](#)



Webinar: Critical Need for Emergency Rental Assistance

Join COHHIO - Coalition for Housing and Homeless in Ohio

May 05, 2020 at 9:30 AM EDT.

[Register now!](#)

With nearly one-million Ohioans applying for unemployment benefits within just a few short weeks, it is imperative that we put together a groundswell of community support for substantial emergency rental assistance. The next couple of weeks are critical in advancing our advocacy efforts and we need your help! Join us to learn about our call on Congress to include \$100 billion for emergency rental assistance in the next coronavirus relief package.

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Poor People's Campaign

A NATIONAL CALL for MORAL REVIVAL

MASS POOR PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY & MORAL MARCH ON WASHINGTON IS GOING DIGITAL

On **June 20th**, we will hold the largest **digital and social media gathering** of poor and low wealth people, moral and religious leaders, advocates, and people of conscience in this nation's history. A global pandemic is exposing even more the already existing crisis of systemic racism, poverty, ecological devastation, the war economy and militarism, and the distorted moral narrative of religious nationalism. **On June 20, the 140 million poor and low-wealth people across this nation will be heard!**

REPAIRERS
OF THE BREACH

KAIROS
THE CENTER FOR
NON-VIOLENCE
AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

IN THE MIDST OF CHANGING TIMES,
OUR MOVEMENT CONTINUES...

... because we won't be silent anymore.

... because everybody has a right to live.

... because poor and low wealth people will suffer most in this crisis.

... because our demands must remain front
and center in this critical election year.



Twitter: @UniteThePoor

Facebook: @anewppc

Website: poorpeoplescampaign.org



SIDE WITH
LOVE

Ohio Justice Events

Compiled by Kathy Maloney

Voting Rights with Stacey Abrams

Thursday, May 7, at 4 p.m. ET, 1 p.m. PT

[Mother Jones voting rights reporter Ari Berman will be joined by Stacey Abrams](#) on May 7 to take a deep dive into one of the biggest issues of the 2020 election: voting rights. So many readers have told us that protecting the vote is *the* issue they want us to stay laser-focused on, and we agree. [Register today](#) to join two of the most knowledgeable minds on voting rights.

How Protected Are We Against Discrimination? A Virtual Town Hall

May 5 6:30 – 8 PM

Join us for a Facebook Live town hall on non-discrimination. A dynamic slate of speakers will discuss U.S. Supreme Court decisions and the status of non-discrimination protections at the local, state, and federal level.

REGISTER at <http://fpl.actionkit.com/sign/nc-townhall-nondisc-fbl/>

Current Speakers:

Kendra Johnson, Executive Director, Equality NC

Allison Scott, Director of Policy and Programs, Campaign for Southern Equality

Bishop Tonyia Rawls, Founder and Executive Director, Freedom Center for Social Justice

Jillian Johnson, Durham City Council member

Ames Simmons (moderator), Director of Policy, Equality NC

CCJ Net Tours

May 12 7 PM

Get a live tour of the CreateClimateJustice.net (CCJnet) platform with CCJnet's Outreach Specialist Diane Brooks. This is a great way to learn how to navigate and fully utilize the site. These calls will be held monthly, every 2nd Tuesday at 7 pm Eastern.

Join the meeting at: <https://zoom.us/j/529900948>

Climate Action Roundtable

May 13 8 PM – 9 PM

The UU Climate Action Roundtable is a monthly opportunity for Unitarian Universalist CATs, activists, and friends to come together online or by phone for conversation about spiritual resources, current events, stories, questions and struggles, and calls for action and solidarity towards climate justice.

Calls take place the second Wednesday of each month at 8pm Eastern/5pm Pacific. You can join by phone or web (Zoom.us); by yourself or with others in your congregation. Sign up to join the Climate Action Roundtable mailing list and get dial-in information for the next call.

<https://www.uumfe.org/get-involved/climate-action-network/>

Biodiversity Sunday

May 17

Biodiversity Sunday sits between [Endangered Species Day](#) on May 15 and the [International Day for Biodiversity](#) on May 22. Use this Sunday as a time to celebrate biodiversity, and to learn and act together in community to recognize the emergency of Earth's sixth mass biological extinction (aka Holocene extinction or Anthropocene extinction). This webpage will be updated periodically with additional resources — please email any resource recommendations to office@uumfe.org.

Readings:

- [“The Council of All Beings”](#) by Joanna Macy
- [“Grateful for Creatures from A to Z”](#) by The Rev. Gary Kowalski
- [“The Calling of the Creatures”](#) by Ian W. Riddell
- [The Lost Words: A Spell Book](#) by Robert Macfarlane and Jackie Morris

Small Group Ministry / Religious Education:

- [Join the Procession of the Species](#)
- [“Nurturing Discussions and Practices: Nurture Nature, Yourself, and Your Relationships”](#) by Rev. LoraKim Joyner DVM and Gail Koeln

Scientific Sources:

- [World Wildlife Fund – Living Planet Report 2018](#)
- [The IPBES Global Assessment Report on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services](#)
- [The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species](#)

Feeding the Multitude

Topic: Policy Webinar on Anti-Racism

May 21 Noon – 1 PM

The Ohio Council of Churches has launched a lunch-and-learn webinar series called, “Feeding the Multitude.” This interactive webinar series will be held via Zoom the 3rd Thursday of each month.

The series aims to:

- Deepen your knowledge on social justice issues;
- Help you to stay current with state and national discussions on policy that impacts us all;
- Hear from subject-matter experts who will share innovative ideas and solutions;
- Learn more about how to engage in advocacy work;
- Receive concrete skills and strategies to mobilize your congregation.

Contact Brandi Slaughter at bslaughter@ohcouncilchs.org or 614.372.8010 for more information. RSVP at: https://ohiocouncilofchurches.nationbuilder.com/policy_webinars_20200521
Zoom meeting link: <https://bit.ly/2z06v0P>

Join Communities of Care Network

The **Creating Communities of Care Network** was born out of convenings in 2018 & 2019, where grassroots activists, organizers, and leaders came together to broaden the definition of *harm reduction* to mean not just making drug use safer, but also tackling head-on the racist damage created by the conventional criminal justice system, and to reduce mass incarceration and mass criminalization across the board. And those groups were committed to not only ending the harm, but also building the positive future we collectively envision; thus, *Creating Communities of Care*.

We will be meeting to build trusting and strategic relationships across issue areas, geography, race, background, and all kinds of difference. We are stronger when we don't let the purveyors of punishment divide us! Start by [joining this email list](#) and get connected to really good people real soon! *Got questions before you join?* Contact Avery Martens (averysurj@gmail.com).

Calls to Action

Sign the Petition to tell the EPA to be science-based: <https://bit.ly/2KJVpzP>

Tell GM, Toyota, and Fiat Chrysler CEOs to stand up for clean cars at: <https://bit.ly/39v2vID>.

[Sign this petition co-sponsored by 20 Ohio faith oriented organizations](#) calling for stronger and immediate action granting relief to Ohio prisoners in the face of the rampant spread of COVID-19 in the Ohio prison system

Abortion Care Packages with the Ohio Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

Abortion access doesn't begin or end at making sure someone can get an abortion. It is creating a community of love and support for all pregnancy needs and decisions; it is busting stigma and supporting someone on their whole journey. Help provide community care by building Abortion Care Packages with your faith community or student group. To learn more and to sign up, visit abortioncarepackage.org.

Syringe Access in Licking County

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention tell us that **syringe access programs** are associated with an estimated 50% reduction in HIV and Hepatitis C transmissions. New users of these programs are five times more likely to enter drug treatment than those who don't use the programs. As people of faith, we know that God loves people who use drugs. We also know that syringe access programs make our communities safer and healthier. [Let's show our love by demanding an end to the ban in Licking County.](#) Contact Blyth at bbarnow@faithinpubliclife.org for more info.

THE OHIO COUNCIL OF CHURCHES

Lunch & Learn

Webinar Series

FEEDING THE MULTITUDE

The interactive webinar series will be held via Zoom the
3rd Thursday of each month, 12pm - 1pm

Grab lunch and deepen your knowledge on social justice issues. Subject matter experts will share innovative ideas and strategies to mobilize your congregation.

January 16th	Human Trafficking
February 20th	US Census
March 19th	Environmental Justice
April 16th	Health Equity
May 21st	Anti-Racism
June 18th	Addiction
July 16th	Criminal Justice
August 20th	Voting and Civic Engagement
September 17th	Anti-Racism
October 15th	Domestic Violence
November 19th	Financial Security
December 17th	Fostering a Sense of Belonging

Web Series is Free and Requires Registration:
Visit: www.ohiocouncilofchurches.nationalbuilder.com/events/



Social Justice News

[This Earth Day, Earth has something to say](#)

Mother Nature Network

[Clean Water Act Covers Groundwater Discharges, Supreme Court Rules](#)

New York Times

[World Changing Ideas Awards 2020: Social Justice Finalists and Honorable Mentions](#)

Fast Company

[What hasn't changed: Human trafficking continues in the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

BG Falcon

[Emissions Are Way Down. No, That's Not All Good News for the Environment.](#)

Mother Jones

[Social Justice Literature Day](#)

Book Riot

[Fashion Social Justice Advocacy in the Time of Coronavirus](#)

WWD

[How One Social-Justice Organization Diversified Its Revenue](#)

The Chronicle of Philanthropy
