



UUJO June 2020 News

Starting with Breathing

Friends, It's hard right now to even know how to start with this Newsletter. There is so much going on. So many incredibly important gatherings - both in person and online. So much grief and hope and anger and actions for change.

In light of all of this, I want to start this Newsletter with a Prayer/Poem by UU minister, Rev Darrick Jackson.

Chaotic Spirit that defies understanding,

Why have you put us through this?

This is hard.

It asks so much of us.

We're tired.

Please, can we be done?

Help us survive another year.

Help us move out of crisis mode.

Help us find the opportunity within this moment.

Help us find moments of renewal.

Breathing in.

Breathing out.

We pray for strength and endurance.

We pray for spiritual fortitude.

We pray for survival.

Blessed Be

And I have to remind you UUJO really needs your donations at this time. Funds are running extremely low due to the virus and we need your support now 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



Could Your Congregation/Group Benefit from a Community Conversation?

We are finding that these Community Conversations are becoming more important each day as we wrestle with the systemic evil of racism, the work of protest, and new Voter Suppression attempts here in Ohio. (HB 680 is a particularly sneaky attempt to suppress.)

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



Webinar: Ohio Legislative Update

Wednesday, June 17 7:00 - 8:15 pm

The Ohio Legislature has been very active lately. They have blocked municipalities from regulating plastic bags. **They are currently trying to make it harder to vote in November. with HB 680** They are trying to limit the

emergency powers of the State Health Director and Governor. And so much many things that will directly impact our lives.

Join Rev. Joan VanBecelaere, Executive Director of UUJO and Tadd Pinkston of Pinkston Law and others to look at what is happening this month in the Ohio Statehouse. 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/ohio-legislative-updates?source=direct_link&

And then join us on Zoom at: <https://zoom.us/j/3909831611>

Meeting ID: 390 983 1611

Or Dia: +1 646 558 8656 US (New York), Meeting ID: 390 983 1611.

Webinar: Addressing Systematic Violence Against African Americans

Thursday June 4th from 4-5:30PM

Co-sponsored by Interfaith Association of Central Ohio, Ohio Council of Churches, and Faith in Public Life, and featuring a presentation from Rev. Dr. Susan Smith of Crazy Faith Ministries.

Register for limited Zoom participation by emailing office@iaco.org with name, email address, and faith or organizational affiliation. Facebook event here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/562826767927304/>.



Immediate Action: Stop HB 680 That Makes Voting Harder

In this time of anguish, lawmakers shouldn't be making it harder for all voices to be heard.

We are calling for simple and safe voting this November and HB 680 doesn't deliver on that. The Ohio House of Representatives is fast-tracking HB 680 and could pass this bill as early as June 3 or 4.

HB 680 would make it harder to vote by:

Eliminating the last weekend of early voting

Sending an informational postcard rather than a ballot application to voters, and

Threatening the safety and security of election day by requiring any emergency plans to be established almost two months in advance.

Call lawmakers today and tell them: roadblocks to voting have no place in our democracy!

Click [Here to Call Now](#)

Webinar: Voter Outreach for Underserved Communities

Jun 14, 2020 04:00 PM Eastern Time

You are also welcome to **register HERE** for this discussion of voter outreach strategies.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89666248333?pwd=WlJRRkF4MmQ5RHNNTE9xZmQrNkF6UT09>

Meeting ID: 896 6624 8333

Password: 532709

One tap mobile

+16465588656,,89666248333#,1#,532709# US (New York)

+13017158592,,89666248333#,1#,532709# US (Germantown)

Dial by your location

+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

+1 301 715 8592 US (Germantown)

Meeting ID: 896 6624 8333

Password: 532709

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kldlCLRIs>



Calls for Action and News for Racial Justice

Many things will have to change for there to be racial justice and equity. Everyone will need to participate in anti-racist actions. Critically, our elected leaders must act to end racism. In November, we must vote for leaders who want to end the generations of racial injustice; to do that everyone who wants justice must register and vote.

Below is a list of **Resources and Links** regarding Racial Justice and how you can learn more and then take action. The resources are from Move On, Black Lives Matter, Side With Love and more.

Anti-Racism Resources For White People, compiled by Sarah Sophie Flicker and Alyssa Klein in May 2020
https://docs.google.com/document/u/1/d/1BRIF2_zhNe86SGgHa6-VIBO-QgirlTwCTugSfKie5Fs/mobilebasic?urp=gmail_link

Shareable Anti-Racism Resources Guide, by Tasha K. Ryals
<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1hpub-jkm9cLzJWqZSsETqbE6tZ13Q0UbQz--vQ2avEc/edit>

Tools for White Allies, by the Washington Race Equity & Justice Initiative
<https://wareji.org/resources/tools-for-white-anti-racist-allies/>

Racial Equity Tools
<https://www.racialequitytools.org/home>

Please sign and share this statement declaring that black lives matter to God and calling on the Department of Justice to investigate the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor, and Ahmaud Arbery:
http://fpl.actionkit.com/sign/faith-blm-520/?t=7&ak_proof=1&akid=2121.300.8cB4_k.

Here are two concrete things all Unitarian Universalists can do right now in response to this moment:

1. Support the uprising and commit to joining other UUs in working to combat the violence of militarism and the police state: Share this message widely with your networks. Speak about your convictions in support of Black liberation. Articulate your support of Black organizing, grounded in your Unitarian Universalist faith. Have hard

conversations with your family, your social networks, your neighbors. [And sign up at this link](#) to be connected with a network of UUs committing to learning, reflecting, and acting together.

2. Support the front line organizers providing leadership: Give your money, ask others to give, and take up a collection at this Sunday's service in support of organizations like Black Visions Collective, Reclaim the Block, and Minnesota Freedom Fund.

Additional Resources and Links:

Click on [THIS LINK to view the list](#). Or go

to: <https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PrORIQcJY9WvNWxREBgX07uTALztpU7FvtZyQMUipME/edit?usp=sharing>



Register to Vote, Check Your Registration, Pledge to Vote, Volunteer

We all need to have our voices heard this November election.

Check your registration at OOHVOTES.ORG today. And Pledge to Vote.

This November, we are fighting for the heart of our democracy and the soul of our nation. Join the action wing of the Ohio Voter Advocacy Committee (the Nonpartisan Ohio Voter Outreach Committee) and work with others on voter education, registration, transportation, minority outreach, election protection, faith community engagement and more.

Sign up at: <https://actionnetwork.org/forms/ohio-voter-outreach-committee-sign-up/>.

If you have problems signing up, please contact Rev Joan VanBecelaere at info@uujo.org.



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. 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?source=direct_link&

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.

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**

**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

Poor People's Campaign News

Thursday, June 4, at 6:00pm PST/9:00pm EST: Student Fellows Town Hall. Moral Fusion Student Fellows will host a Facebook Live event featuring students and recent graduates talking about the impact of campus closures, police violence, the economic crisis, and COVID19, and the importance of organizing and mobilizing for June 20. Join us on June 4 at facebook.com/anewppc/.

Thursday, June 4, at 5:30pm PST/8:30pm EST: Monthly Policy Call. Join us for our June Policy Call where we will take some time to hear from each other about the multiple pandemics we are confronting and the actions that are being taken across the country. You will also have time to offer your constructive feedback on the webinar

series. [Please register here.](#)

Fridays through June 19th at 11am PST/2pm EST: Join us for our weekly "Get Organized, Get Online!" training, open to all state coordinating committee members, state leaders, and partners organizing toward June 20. Last week we talked about continuing to organize around letters to state Governors, the June 1 Cultural Day of Action toolkit, and creating content using Canva. [Click here to watch the recording.](#) This week we'll cover new digital organizing techniques and continue building toward June 20. [Register here for this week's training.](#)



Ohio Justice Events

Compiled by Kathy Maloney

Decarceration

June 6th there will be a statewide action asking Gov. DeWine to support the release and care of incarcerated Ohioans. Please plan to join us. This is a simple way to show love and care for our incarcerated neighbors and their loved ones. [Facebook event here.](#) If you would like to sign up as a volunteer to support the action you can do so here.

Join the 8th Principle Learning Community

This is a Facebook page of a national conversation group formed to explore the addition of the Principle. This proposed Principle is more important now than ever before.

Please join the conversation on Facebook at. 8th Principle UU Community or [HERE.](#)

The 8th Principle is:

“We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: journeying toward spiritual wholeness by working to build a diverse multicultural Beloved Community by our actions that accountably dismantle racism and other oppressions in ourselves and our institutions.”

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)**.

Antisemitism:

Please sign and share this statement supporting Dr. Amy Acton and the entire Jewish community in the face of antisemitic attacks: http://fpl.actionkit.com/sign/antisemitism-solidarity-oh/?t=12&ak_proof=1&akid=2114.957.CL_RO1.

Immigration/Sanctuary:

Please sign this statement from Church World Service and CRIS (Community Refugee and Immigration Services) calling for Emergency Licensing for Healthcare Professionals:

https://docs.google.com/forms/u/1/d/e/1FAIpQLSdVse6GCM_Pyi8Ho7i6LUSY8fcbRXz5qe57NEKDucWrkSgRmw/viewform. For more information, please contact Jackie Kifuko with CRIS at jkifuko@cris-ohio.org.

Calls to Action

[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. Help a build community of love 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

Syringe access programs are associated with a 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 all people, including those who use drugs. [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/

