

Social Justice Update

Equity means that everyone should be treated with inherent worth and dignity. This makes people feel like equals.



Art by A2U2 RE Students
From [The Handy Guide to Shared Values](#)
By Emily C. Jones

Furniture Friends (nominated by Samuel Sherry)

Each week, we share one third of our offering with a local nonprofit to show our support for organizations whose work furthers the values expressed in our denomination's foundation of love. We hope that Share the Plate will also bring a greater awareness to the community of Allen Avenue UU Church and Unitarian-Universalist values.



NPR piece on
Brass Solidarity
in MN



Music has long been central to the fight for freedom. Here are two podcasts about protest music.



**ACTIVATE MAINE:
KEEP ICE OUT OF
MAINE**

Click picture for the toolkit

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CALLS FOR ACTION

Friday 2-3 PM at Church

Rooms 7 & 9

FMI email: [Julie Harrison](#)

NEXT SJC MEETING

February 25th at 7PM
via Zoom

For Zoom link go to Breeze or contact: [Julie Harrison](#)



A BIT OF POSITIVE NEWS IN SCARY TIMES

A few months ago, people started realizing that Spotify was running ads for ICE. That immediately sparked backlash, and many people left the service. Well, **as of the end of 2025, Spotify is no longer running ads for ICE.** Woohoo!!!! We don't know for certain that our public pressure was the deciding factor, but

I know it didn't hurt. The power of the purse is real.

Another win: **Avelo Airlines has stopped being one of the carriers running deportation flights.** Again, public protest does not go unheard, especially for a new airline trying to build a following. Well done, us.

In a win for the environment, in Mauritius, a scientist has come up with a way to **breed heat-resistant coral**. When the oceans get too warm, coral die. The "bleaching" of reefs has been a problem that scientists have been working on for decades. Now progress has been made in the effort to save these critical undersea environments.

SHARE THE PLATE NOMINATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

It is our tradition to share 1/3 of each Sunday's offering to a non-profit organization chosen by members of the congregation. The Social Justice Committee will be accepting nominations from the congregation in February and March. Do you have a non-profit organization that you would like to nominate for the 2026-2027 church year? If so, **here is a link to submit your nomination: <https://a2u2.breezechms.com/form/ShareThePlateNominationFormFY27>** Paper forms are also available on the Social Justice bulletin board in the foyer. Nominations will be collected through Sunday, March 29th.

The Social Justice Committee will evaluate the nominations and recommend recipients to the board. The board will make the final selection at their April meeting.

When evaluating nominations, the Social Justice Committee will use the following criteria:

- Organization or project shares our values and is consistent with our principles
- Local impact
- Organization is small enough that a contribution of \$500-\$600 will make a significant difference
- Provides volunteer opportunities for A2U2 members
- Organization has not been selected recently (though we have made exceptions)
- Recipients must be §501(c)(3) tax exempt charitable organizations.

For more information, see [Jim Mason](#) or [Julie Harrison](#).

If you witness enforcement activity, call the **MAINE ICE WATCH HOTLINE** and remember **SALUTE**

Size: How many agents/vehicles?
Activity: What are they doing?
Location: Where exactly is this happening? (Exact address if possible)
Unit: What agency? (ICE, CBP, etc.)
Time: When did you see this?
Equipment: Vehicle descriptions, clothing, badges

MAINE ICE WATCH HOTLINE NUMBER
207-544-9989



ILAP
 IMMIGRANT LEGAL ADVOCACY PROJECT

CHECK HERE FOR DETENTION HELP

<https://ilapmaine.org/detention>

The Maine Solidarity Fund (MSF) is an initiative of the People's Coalition for Safety & Justice (PCSJ), a collective of frontline organizations, cultural anchors, and direct service providers with deep ties to Maine's Black and Brown immigrant, and Trans communities. This statewide fund is one arm of the coalition's broader community defense strategy, designed to provide rapid, direct, and equitable support to community members facing increased detention, targeted harassment, policy rollbacks, and systemic discrimination under the new Trump administration.

IF YOU ARE DELIVERING GROCERIES TO AN IMMIGRANT FAMILY SHELTERING AT HOME YOU CAN GO TO PROJECT FEED



You can select food for them at 640 Brighton Ave at the back, **open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 1 - 3 pm. Bring bags if possible.**

<https://www.projectfeed.org/>



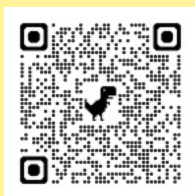
FACA – IN FEBRUARY WE WILL:

1. Partner with MUSSAN, focusing on bills coming up in the Maine State Legislature
2. Write hundreds of postcards to Swing States with the Progressive Turnout Project (script provided!)
3. Begin to explore Ground Truth, an innovative people-powered canvassing program, employing deep, meaningful conversations with ALL voters
4. Show up at the Bridge Brigade on Wednesdays and Fridays
5. See our updates in the weekly Eblast for more specifics. Contact [Julie Harrison](#) or [Cynthia Martin](#) FMI.

Thank you to all who donated toiletry items for Maine Needs. We were able to pack and deliver more than 25 kits!

A COUPLE OF THE ACTIONS REV. TARA WAS INVOLVED IN LAST MONTH:

- [Westbrook community members and religious leaders form a human wall to keep local workers safe from ICE](#)
- [Hundreds gather in Lewiston for 'Ice Them Out' rally](#)
- [Letter-from-Maine-Faith-Leaders-Regarding-ICE-Actions-in-Our-State-with-hyperlinks.pdf](#)



MUUSAN'S CALL TO ACTION PAGE

Maine UU State Advocacy Network

- MUUSAN's [Current Call to Action Page](#).
 - ➔ **Check regularly** because actions come up often.
 - ➔ Or **Sign up** for their [Take Action Emails](#)
 - ➔ For More Information: MUUSAN.org



Monument Square Weekly Peaceful Protest with Indivisible

Every Saturday at 11am-12pm

Where: Monument Square, Portland, ME

Find your people at the weekly, peaceful protest in Monument Square. Bring a cool sign. All who oppose the administration's harmful executive actions, both domestic and international, are welcome! Stand in solidarity for change.



Thank you for the care and commitment you continue to show to Family Promise families in the community. As most of you know, the Immigration raids began in Maine on January 19th. They are not picking up “the worst of the worst” as they would like you to believe. They are targeting Refugees and Asylum seekers who are here legally.

Due to ICE raids, many immigrant families are facing loss of income, food insecurity, and fear. Most families are sheltering in place and unable to leave their homes safely to go to work or school. In response, the Greater Portland Family Promise board of directors has voted to approve and create the Emergency Support Fund for Immigrant Families so that we can respond quickly and compassionately when families need support.

The fund helps provide:

- Emergency food assistance
- Rent support to prevent eviction
- Immigration-related legal support, as legally permissible

Your partnership continues to make a difference. Thank you for being part of a community that leads with care, dignity, and compassion.



To make a donation please visit their website to learn more <https://www.gpfamilypromise.org/donate>

Family Promise is also collecting information on people in a congregation who may be willing to provide hands on assistance. Since that list is not yet set to go, please send your contact info to AnneMarie Catanzano amc0405@gmail.com or text 207-749-1815. She will keep a list and pass all the information along to GPFP when they are ready.

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

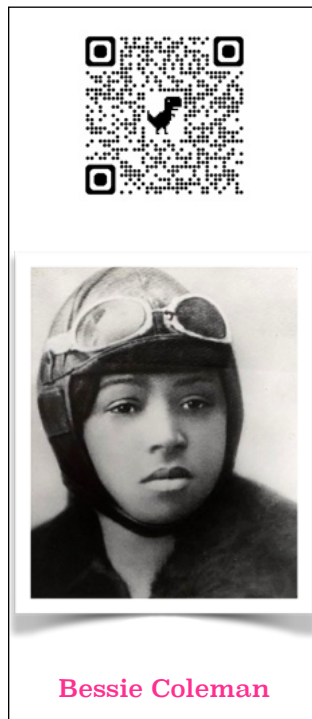
2026 marks a milestone of both progress and persistence in the United States, the 100th anniversary of federal recognition for Black Americans. What began as a singular week of learning and recognition called Negro History Week in 1926 has grown into an overall cultural observance of Black History throughout the month of February.

The architect of this movement was Dr. Carter G. Woodson. A historian and educator, he also holds the distinction of being the second African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University, following W.E.B. Du Bois. As the son of formerly enslaved parents, Dr. Woodson understood that denying people of their history denies them of their humanity.

"Those who have no record of what their forebears have accomplished lose the inspiration which comes from the teaching of biography and history," he wrote.



African American Army Nurses in World War II



Bessie Coleman



If you are holding a print copy of the newsletter, here are the QR CODES for links in this issue

Use a Smartphone camera to hover over the QR code and go to the link.



33 Little-Known Facts About Black History That You Didn't Learn In School



Storycorps: Stories to Celebrate Black History Month



Heat Resistant Coral:
Mauritius Restores Reefs with Heat-Resistant Coral and Sees 98% Survival Rates



The Gathering: We will lift up stories of resistance and resilience. Songs for Liberation will grace us with their music.



Intersectionality Matters Podcast - The Sounds of Us: Music has long been central to the fight for freedom.



It's Been a Minute Podcast: Protest music is having a revival on TikTok



ICE Toolkit