

Social Justice Update

Being able to hold many views at once
and learn from each other is the value of
pluralism.



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

Out Maine (nominated by Senior Youth)

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.

Out Maine's focus is building the welcoming and affirming communities urgently needed for Maine's LGBTQ+ youth. They also sponsor the [Rainbow Ball](#), a weekend-long experience for LGBTQ+ youth to safely express themselves, ending with a queer prom!

We are also collecting donations of formal and party wear for the Rainbow Ball queer prom, including dresses, suits, slacks, and shoes. Drop them off at the March 7th Game and Dance Party or March 8th service.

FRIDAY AFTERNOON CALLS FOR ACTION

Friday 2-3 PM at Church

Rooms 7 & 9

FMI email: [Julie Harrison](#)

NEXT SJC MEETING

March 25th at 7PM via
Zoom

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

SOCIAL JUSTICE SERVICE: PEOPLE, POWER, PROTEST

March 29th at 10 AM



HOW TO SUSTAINABLY LIVE THE ACTIVIST LIFE

Omkari Williams

Click on the picture or underlined text to go to the website or send an email



LATTE THROW DOWN – FUNDRAISER FOR MAINE EQUAL JUSTICE

Thursday, March 12
Doors open at 6 PM |
Competition starts at 7 PM
@ Coffee By Design – 1
Diamond St., Portland

Steam, skill, and serious creativity collide as Maine's talented baristas face off in a friendly-but-fierce Latte Throwdown.

Come cheer them on, celebrate coffee culture, and watch incredible pours come to life — one cup at a time. This high-energy evening supports Maine Equal Justice, making every cup and sip part of something bigger.

No advance registration or reservation required — just show up, grab a spot, and enjoy the show.



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](#).

Click on the picture or underlined text to go to the website or send an email

SHOWING UP FOR OUR TRANS SIBLINGS

Saturday March 21st

12:30 - 3:30pm

**First Parish UU Portland, 425
Congress St**

A community forum of education and action that will include:

- a keynote on the reality and threats to the trans community in Maine and beyond
- a panel/discussion on what allyship looks like in practice
- action planning / building a roadmap together for mutual aid and political advocacy
- tabling for trans rights organizations



FACA – IN MARCH WE WILL:

1. Continue to partner with MUUSAN, focusing on bills coming up in the Maine State Legislature
2. Write Get Out The Vote postcards to BIPOC voters with Center for Common Ground (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.



**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.



JOIN UU THE VOTE ON MARCH 12 AT 7PM

for a 90-minute Zoom conversation on safety, security, and spiritual grounding and how it connects with the moment we are in. We'll explore how to enhance our community safety and transform the exercise into a spiritual practice that nurtures and sustains, rather than stresses and exhausts. [TO RSVP CLICK HERE](#)

MEAL PACKAGING EVENT AT ST. LUKES FOR THE OUTREACH PROGRAM

Mar 15th, 11:15 AM - 2:00 PM

St. Luke's Cathedral - Lower Hall, 143 State St, Portland, ME 04101, USA

Help package meals to support The Outreach Program.

RSVP: <https://www.cathedralofsaintluke.org/event-details/meal-packaging-event>

GREATER PORTLAND FAMILY PROMISE UPDATE

Families involved with Greater Portland Family Promise have been starting to return to their normal lives since the shift in ICE presence in Maine. Some were left struggling to make rent since they had been sheltering in place, and returned to General Assistance. As we described in the previous SJ newsletter, Greater Portland Family Promise also set up an emergency fund to help families in these unusual circumstances. A handful of churches set up a grocery delivery system, which they called the Neighbor Support Network, for about 100 families. **Thank you to any A2U2 volunteers who helped with this effort or with grocery shopping or transportation for our Family Promise families!**



March 9th: Fortifying Ourselves

Join us for The Gathering, a monthly virtual event from Side With Love designed to offer:

- **Spiritual Grounding** - Strengthen your heart and spirit for the work ahead.
- **Political Analysis** - Understand the threats to democracy and justice.
- **Collective Action** - Organize with others to block anti-democratic forces and build a just and loving world.

DID YOU KNOW? WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH STARTED AS WOMEN'S HISTORY WEEK . . .

In 1980, a consortium of women's groups and historians—led by the National Women's History Project (now the National Women's History Alliance)—successfully lobbied for national recognition. In February 1980, President Jimmy Carter issued the first Presidential Proclamation declaring the Week of March 8th as National Women's History Week. Subsequent Presidents continued to proclaim a National Women's History Week in March until 1987 when Congress passed Public Law 100-9, designating March as "Women's History Month."



**Immigrant Women and
the American Experience**



60 Books About Standing Up for Others

**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.



Sustainably Living the Activist Life

Each month will explore a different theme and include thoughts and suggestions for incorporating Commitment, Ritual, and Creativity into your activism as a way of making this work sustainable over a lifetime, not just a moment.



Online National Women's History Museum



**6 Groundbreaking
Women You Didn't Learn
About in History Class**