

Social Justice Report for December 2020

Presented at the 12/20 UUC Service by Susan Allen, Co-Chair of the SJ Council

[Comments below designated “Note” were added later.]

First, I want to commend this congregation on how we are living the first two Principles of our faith during these difficult times:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of all
2. Justice, equity and compassion in human relations

You have surpassed expectations again and again, for examples, in money raised for Pinellas County School children’s school supplies, for beans and rice for hungry migrant workers [Note: There was enough to pay for a second delivery to farmworkers in the spring.], and for toys for Tampa Bay tots who might not have received them otherwise this holiday season.

At the Christmas Eve Service, all money collected will go to Feeding America – Tampa Bay. [Note: The collection was so successful that we will be able to donate sufficient funds to have UUC listed as a donor to this worthy organization.] Then, in January, we begin our COVID Community Outreach Project that will last at least 3 months. Each month we will identify a local agency that could use our help particularly during this pandemic. In January, it will be the Pinellas County Urban League. Throughout the month, money donated specifically for Social Justice by check or through the drop-down menu for donations on the website will all go to this agency. This is different and, for now, will be instead of “Split the Plate.”

Our committees continue to meet and do their work:

The Racial Justice group will meet later than usual in January due to the holidays - on Sat. 1/9 at 3 pm. We will continue to discuss confronting our White Privilege and soliciting volunteers to write Racial Justice history articles, now posted on our website after publication in the E-O.

And, of course FAST never slows down! An update from Linda Stoller: The affordable housing committee will be meeting on January 5th at 10 AM with the newly elected chair of the Pinellas County Commission, Commissioner Eggers to discuss the proposal County staff are bringing to the Commission regarding the funding of new affordable housing projects. The staff is recommending the support of 4 projects that would create 702 units. However only 193 units would

be going to low-income residents. The other units are for families making over \$100,000.

This is unacceptable! Commissioner Eggers represents the people who live in North County. If you can attend this meeting please contact Linda Stoller. Her email is in the directory.

The county commission will be meeting on January 12 to vote on this proposal. You are invited to attend this meeting as well.