

Social Justice Report November 22,2020

Good morning! I am excited about the good work that is being done by members our congregation as we live out our UU values in our community. I know many of you worked hard in the recent election by writing postcards, phone banking and just plain old community organizing in support of democracy and I applaud you.

The beans and rice collection was a huge success. Thanks to your generosity and the hard work of Harriet H'asidi, rev. Dave and the couples covenant group, bags of beans and rice were delivered to farmworkers in camps in Plant City. Please remember and give thanks for the farmworkers who work so hard in perilous times to give us food for our table.

Yesterday Eliseo Santana and Puerto Rico Connect gave out bags of food for Thanksgiving dinner to over 50 families. This was a drive thru event at UUC.

And the same covenant group, the couples group, has stepped up and organized a Toys for Tots drop off event at UUC . They are collecting new, unwrapped toys for children in need aged 0 to 12.

Toys can be dropped off from 1 to 3 PM on Dec.1st ,Dec.5th, Dec.8th and Dec.12th.

And the justice work continues into the new year- The **hard** work of changing systems to fight inequality. Our UUC Racial Justice group continues to meet monthly and to do the necessary internal work to examine white supremacy in all of us and our society. FAST is organizing its issue committees to continue the work of expanding the amount of affordable housing for low income folks, making mental health more accessible and reforming our criminal justice system. You are invited to attend the kick off event on Nov.30th at 6:45. Please contact me for the zoom link.

And finally, I want to acknowledge that Friday was Transgender Day of remembrance. Let us not forget the that in 2020 at least 37 lives were lost to the compounded violences of transphobia and racism. In the words of Rev.Michael Crumpler "We are all responsible for the epidemic of violence against the transgender community and we are called to do everything we can to celebrate the transgender, genderqueer, and non-binary community by dismantling any and

all barriers to total equity and full inclusion in our congregations, institutions and society at large”

The social justice council is planning more ways to do outreach into our community and fight for justice in the coming year. We are challenged by the pandemic and are looking for new ideas and ways to live our UU values in our community. You are invited to our next Social Justice Council meeting on December 19th. Watch the Octagram for the zoom link.